Business to sound alarm on kidnappings

Story Below, Col. 5

P15

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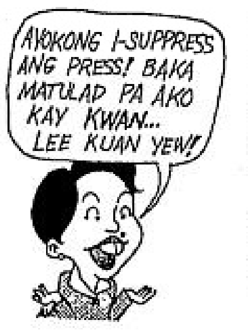
NOVEMBER 11, 2001 ★ 74 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 336

No plan to gag media


AYOKONG I-SUPPRESS ANG PRESS! BAKA MATULAD PA AKO KAY KWAN... LEE KUAN YEW!

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SHE may be blowing her top at the media lately, but that's cool.

No matter how irritated she is by published reports of alleged coup plots

NO/ A19

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Bin Laden: I have nuke and I'll use it on United States** WORLD/ A10
- **N. Alliance captures Mazar-e-Sharif** WORLD/ A10

Casino video key to slay

'SUSMARYOSEP'

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Christmas in a shanty along the *riles* is good even if used tires hold down the roof, the wash is hanging out to dry and the garbage is piling up. Like the first Christmas, life is kind even if difficult is the whole point of the tableau by Edith L. Oliveros at the exhibit of Nativity scenes at Rustan's Tower on Edsa.

Cops look at personal grudge angle

By Luige A. del Puerto

INVESTIGATORS are trying to retrieve the master security tape showing Nida Blanca supposedly playing at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City on the night she went missing and was subsequently killed.

This was disclosed yesterday by Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police, who also said probers had taken the sworn statements of 18 material witnesses so far, and that "personal grudge" was the angle they were now pursuing.

"We now have very good leads," Gualberto said. "All I can say is that if we are inside a tunnel, we are now seeing a light at the end of it."

Casino Filipino has a number of security cameras in the premises. The tape in question may hold the key to solving the actress' brutal killing, a source privy to the investigation told the Inquirer.

The source also said the telephone operator at the casino was being questioned and had given "material" statements.

Gualberto would not comment on whether the telephone operator had seen anybody with Blanca. "We don't want to scare our suspect. The suspect may just run away," he said.

He added that once the tape was retrieved, probers would view it along with members of Blanca's family. *(See related story on Page A23)*

The investigation is now focused on the five hours that Blanca was last seen alive—from 5 p.m. of Nov. 6, when she was supposed to haveleft the office of the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board, to 10 p.m.

Gualberto said his men had talked with Noel de la Paz, a

CASINO/ A18

Nov 6. 10-11 p.m.–Nida spotted at casino

By Cathy Babao-Guballa

(Editor's Note: Below is an hour-by-hour account of the last day of Nida Blanca)

Nov. 5, 2001 Attends the cremation rites of long-time friend and LVN colleague Bong Eraña (former child actress Nenita Vidal) and visits relatives in Parañaque. Arrives home at around 7 p.m. and takes an early dinner. Elena dela Paz, her trusted aide for 36 years, asks her for money to buy her hypertension medicines (plendyl). Nida asks Rod, her husband, to give Elena some money because she (Nida) has no cash on hand. He asks how much and Elena says P500 but Rod does not give her the money yet. Nida retires for the night a little past 10 p.m.

Nov.6—7 a.m. When Nida wakes up, she calls out to Angel, the gardener, to help her plant *sili* in the backyard. Mrs. Nena Reyes, her neighbor across the street, waves to her and admonishes her to be careful on the ladder. Nida waves back and smiles.

8:30 a.m. Goes to her bedroom and putters on the porch fixing plants that hang on the wall. Complains that her cat once again chewed on the plants. "*Kaya ko nga pinalitan yung mga tanim para di na kainin ni Ming-ming*" she is overheard saying.

Elena dela Paz goes to her bedroom and bids her goodbye to attend a healing rally in Mt. Carmel. She decides not to ask Nida for the P500 and instead decides to make "*abono*".

9 a.m. Nida calls out to her cook of 32 years Cedes, to prepare her oatmeal and coffee. "*Naka dalawang init na ako ng kape bago siya lumabas. Madami kasing kinukutkot sa kuwarto,*" says Cedes.

9:45 to 11:00 a.m. Nida takes her carrot juice, coffee and oatmeal in the kitchen. Then she makes

NOV. 6/ A18

Romancing the generals at Bonifacio

By Fe Zamora
Inq.7 Section Editor

SHE could have danced all night.

She dined and wined. Gaily, she hopped through 16 tables, a glass of red wine in hand, chatting and laughing with 65 military generals and their ladies.

On Friday night at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio, she flashed her toothy grin all around, not even a hint of the snooty señorita with the infamous temper.

The belle of the night was no ordinary dazzler. President Macapagal-Arroyo also happens to be the commander in chief of the assembled guests. Did they have coup rumors for dessert?

Earlier that evening at the Philippine Marines 51st anniversary, Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia led about 1,000 Marines in reciting the Marine oath before Ms Macapagal.

"At this point, Madam President, and in the face of so many naughty speculations, and on this very auspicious occasion, we the few good men of the Philippine Marine Corps assure our commander in chief our unflinching loyalty which is instinctive. We stand decisively behind the president and our people," Ladia said.

The lady was pleased.

In some tables the President stayed 15 minutes, in others just five for a quick photo op with the well-decked Army ladies linking arms be

ROMANCING/ A18

Kidnap of foreigners reaches record high

By Jerry Esplanada

KIDNAPPING 2001
An I-TEAM Report
(Last of four parts)

THE ABDUCTION the other day of the wife of a French diplomat in Better Living Subdivision in Parañaque City has dramatized one of the most disturbing new twists in the country's kidnap-for-ransom crisis. The kidnapping of foreign nationals living in or visiting the Philippines has hit an all-time high.

According to official police records, a total of 14 kidnapping incidents involving 17 foreigners took place between Jan. 1 and Oct. 30 this year.

These numbers are equivalent to the kidnapping toll of the last five years combined. According to the document provided by the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf), between March 1996 and July 2000 a total of 14 incidents also victimized 17 foreign nationals.

There were five kidnapping incidents of foreigners in all of 2000, three in 1999, two in 1998, one in 1997 and three in 1996.

KIDNAP/ A19

Business to sound alarm

By John Nery

THE BIGGEST business organizations in the country are expected to issue a "strongly worded" statement during the National Economic Summit on Nov. 26 calling for more effective government action on the kidnap-for-ransom crisis—the same crisis that the national police leadership claims is essentially being solved.

BUSINESS/ A17

VAL HANDUMON

IN UNION, STRENGTH President Macapagal leads the National day of Prayer and Fasting at the Luneta Grandstand. From left, Sen. Manuel Villar, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former President Cory Aquino, Executive Secretary Bert Romulo, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Mike Velarde. *(Story on Page A18.)*

Second FRONT PAGE

KONTRA -EPIDEMYA PARA SA MGA NAKALIGTAS MUNA

Pagcor comes to aid of Camiguin victims

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) announced yesterday that it was sending 500 sacks of rice and hundreds of boxes of sardines to the typhoon-stricken province of Camiguin to help victims of typhoon "Nanang."

Pagcor Chair Efraim C. Genuino said he had ordered the purchase of the rice from the National Food Authority for immediate delivery to the area, which was devastated by the typhoon last week.

The food aid will be shipped directly to the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council through Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Caisip.

In a press statement, Pagcor said the first batch of 100 boxes of sardines has already been shipped.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo's desire to help the unfortunate, usually the poor, has always guided Pagcor," Genuino said in the statement, "In the case of Camiguin, both the President and Pagcor feel the tremendous loss and utter helplessness of the Camigueños in the face of nature's unpredictable course."

"We understand many are sick of diarrhea, cold and fever. Many are in dire need of medicine, blankets, clothing and food. I have therefore, directed Pagcor's General Services department to provide those needs to the extent that we can. We are definitely providing financial assistance."

Gov gives up on the missing

CAMIGUIN—Authorities here are frantically burying bodies—not trying to find survivors—to prevent an epidemic of disease from breaking out after tropical storm "Nanang" left hundreds dead, officials said Saturday.

Gov. Pedro Romualdo said, "There is a very strong stench in the area so we are making an extra effort" to recover the bodies.

"Our focus now is on retrieving the bodies for burial, and not search and rescue," he said.

"I hope the relatives will understand. The missing are probably buried (in the mud and debris) so while we are not leaving any stone unturned, we cannot go on digging (to search for them)," he said.

"We are now looking out for an epidemic because that is usually the aftermath of such disasters," Romualdo said, appealing for more medical supplies to be sent to Camiguin.

The storm, which hit central and southern Philippines last week, has so far killed 157 persons, with 146 listed as missing and feared dead, according to AFP.

Camiguin island, a popular tourist destination because of its picturesque beaches, bore the brunt of the storm, suffering 107 dead and 119 missing.

The storm, which struck late Tuesday when most residents were asleep, caused fast-moving flashfloods and landslides that swept down on several towns, catching the villagers by surprise.

Relief workers, soldiers and volunteers have been digging in the mud, using shovels, picks and their bare hands to look for survivors and recover the bodies.

There were so many corpses, they had to be buried in mass graves in crude plywood coffins. Relief workers said the stench of decomposing bodies was still strong, indicating that more bodies were under the mud.

Disaster-monitoring official Felicisimo Gomez said fears of an epidemic were growing because water pipes in some parts of the island had been washed away by the floods.

Lack of drinking water has become a major concern with the island's sole fire truck being used to ferry water to affected areas.

"Our concern now is medicine and water because the water system has not been restored completely," Gomez said, adding that they were "anticipating an epidemic if the water system is not repaired."

Gomez said electrical power has been largely restored on the island and the floods have receded in all but one district.

The airport, which was closed because of mud on the runway, has been partially cleared, allowing military C-130 planes and helicopters to fly in relief supplies, Gomez said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to fly to Camiguin today to assess the damage, deliver relief goods and release more funds for the victims.

More than 35,300 people fled their homes in the southern and central islands, while damage to infrastructure, crops and property has been initially estimated at P362 million, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

In a report, the NDCC said Region VI suffered the biggest losses, specifically the provinces of Capiz, Aklan, Negros Occidental, Iloilo and Guimaras Island.

Damage to agriculture and livelihood alone in Region VI was placed at an initial P64 million. Total damage in the region was at P178 million.

In the Caraga Region, damage to agriculture was slightly higher at P93 million, while damage to infrastructure was an initial P13 million.

The Caraga Region includes the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur.

In Region VII, which covers Bohol, Cebu and Negros Oriental, damage to agriculture has reached P14 million.

As of noon Saturday, the total number of affected families stood at 183,973, or roughly close to a million people.

The number of houses destroyed stands at 548.

Governor Romualdo said he is optimistic the province would quickly "get back on its feet."

He said the local tourism industry would pump new life into the provincial economy, as previous experience has shown.

He said that when Mt. Hibuk-hibok erupted several years ago, tourism was not affected.

"Besides, our tourist spots have not been affected, such as Katibawasan Falls and the Sto. Niño Cold Springs in Catarman.

Donations for Nanang's victims poured in yesterday from Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, two justices of the Sandiganbayan and the Butuan City government, among others.

Bombo Radyo's "Piso-Piso Alang sa Camiguin" and the Orocare Center of Cagayan dė Oro City have raised some P1.5 million for the province.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and Defense Undersecretary Edgardo Batenga Friday handed over P2 million to the provincial government.*Luige del Puerto, with Raj Padilla, Carla Gomez, Gerry Pagharion, Cynthia Borgueta and Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau, and a report from AFP*

'A virtual cemetery'

"THE PLACE is a virtual cemetery," said a witness to the devastation wrought by Typhoon "Nanang" on Barangay Hubangon, Mahinog town, Camiguin.

Seminarian Renato Lomonsod, who lives in nearby Barangay Takangaon, said he was overwhelmed by horror and grief, as he helped parish priest Fr. Benecio Andohon bless 83 bodies on Thursday alone.

"With 10-foot deep mud, boulders, trees and grass burying the entire barangay, one feared stepping on bodies that are scattered in the area," Lomonsod told the INQUIRER over the telephone.

The following day, more than 20 bodies were found floating in seawater, Lomonsod said.

Marife Balabat, 14, of Barangay Hubangon, said that when catastrophe struck, she and her family could only pray hard.

"We all cried and prayed so hard and begged God to save us as the rushing waters was sweeping away our house. When the rampaging waters stopped, we held on so that we would not be washed away," Marife said through tears.

Marife's family was one of the fewer than 10 that survived in Barangay Hubangon.

Marjelyn Naduma, 16, of Sitio Kapagong, Hubangon, lost her parents and four siblings in the disaster.

That night, Marjelyn said, it was raining hard like no one had seen before.

The Nadumas' house was one of more than 100 swept away by the floodwaters, in which boulders and logs swirled.

"My mother hugged me tight but when she lost her grip on my brother, she let me go to try and reach him and I never saw her again. I was buried (in the mud) but my head was above the ground. I just prayed and never expected that I would survive," Marjelyn sobbed. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon, and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No RP protest for pilots' plight

THE GOVERNMENT will not file a formal protest against the US for refusing entry to two Filipino charter pilots wrongly suspected of carrying anthrax bacteria.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said it was enough that the foreign affairs department has told the US government that they were wrong.

She said DFA officials would make sure that Capts. Wel S. Come and Bernie Crisostomo would not be blacklisted in the US and assisted in getting back the jobs that they had been contracted for in Nigeria.

The two, who had visited the US previously, were detained at the Seattle airport when they tried to enter the US last Monday. After hours of interrogation, they were sent back to Manila.

The two said they were victims of a prankster from the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal said the government had sent the US a notification, not a formal protest.

"It was a notification that these people (did not do anything wrong) and that they should not have been treated that way," she said in her "May Gloria Ang Bukas Mo" TV program in which Come and Crisostomo also appeared.

Come later revealed that he had once flown a plane carrying Ms Macapagal when she was still vice president.

She said DFA officials would coordinate with the two pilots' Nigerian employer to get their jobs back and clear their names.

"At least somehow that would make up for what happened. It's important they do not lose their jobs," Ms Macapagal said.

DFA spokesperson Vic Lecaros said US immigration officers violated the Vienna Convention when they did not allow the two to contact the Philippine Embassy. *Dona Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora*

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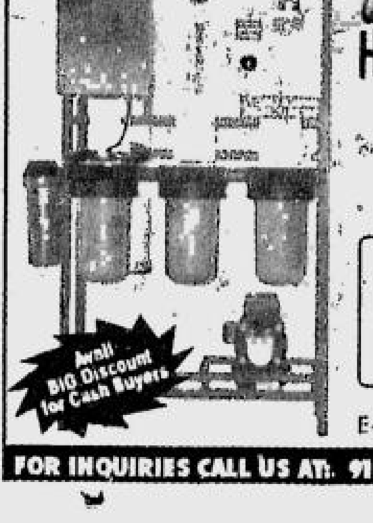

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Court throws out old libel case vs Inquirer

By Alcuin Papa

AFTER 13 years of litigation, a Makati court has ruled in favor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in two libel suits filed by businessman-lawyer Ricardo Romulo.

In an eight-page decision, Judge Salvador Abad Santos of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 143 cited lack of malice on the part of former INQUIRER columnist Hilarion Henares Jr. as the reason for acquitting the accused.

Henares had written a diatribe against Romulo and other businessmen in his "Make My Day" columns of Aug 24, 1988 and Sept. 2, 1988.

Abad Santos said that while three of the four elements of libel were present—the imputation of a discreditable act, the publication of the imputation and the identity of the person defamed—"the only issue that bears worthy consideration is the presence of malice."

"In the opinion of the court, no malice was shown to exist and, hence, no libel was committed. The articles consisted qualified privileged communication as they presented fair comment on matters of public interest and on the actions of a public figure."

The judge also said there was no evidence to show that Henares bore a grudge against Romulo, or that the columnist "acted out of ill will, spite or an intention to do (the latter) harm."

At most, the judge said, what the prosecution had shown was that Henares uses hyperbole and "most often, ill-contrived words to get his opinion across to his readers."

"Fortunately or unfortunately, such a writing style and the expression of an individual's opinions, absent the showing of malicious intent to defame another, are protected under the Constitution. Wherefore, in view of all the foregoing, the court hereby acquits all the accused."

In his columns, Henares referred to Romulo and other businessmen as, among other things, "'greedy crocodiles' (who) latched on like barnacles to politicians whom they corrupt with retainers.'"

"One thousand to your ten pesos say that these little brown monkeys have a yellow streak on their backs a mile wide and will scoot for parts unknown with their 30 pieces of silver at the first sign of trouble," Henares wrote.

Aside from Henares, the accused included Eugenia Apostol, then INQUIRER board chairman; Leticia Magsanoc, then associate publisher; Federico Pascual, then executive editor, and Rosauro Acosta, then managing editor.

In his complaint, Romulo said that when he read Henares' columns, "he felt indignant due to the vain attempt to humiliate me in public and to destroy my reputation."

At the time, Romulo was a senior partner at the Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura, Sayoc and de los Angeles Law Office. He was also chairman of the Makati Business Club and a member of the executive committee of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference.

Vietnam PM due

HANOI—President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam left Saturday for Indonesia, the first leg of an official trip that will also take him to Brunei and the Philippines.

Luong will be in Indonesia until Nov. 12 when he goes to Brunei. On Nov. 14 he leaves for the Philippines and returns home on Nov. 16.

His talks with the leaders of the three countries are expected to focus on bilateral ties as well as relations among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a foreign ministry official said.

Luong is later expected to pay a visit to Cambodia from Nov. 26 to 28. *AFP*

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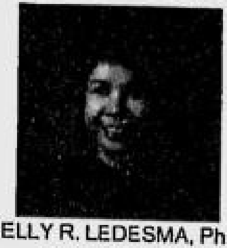

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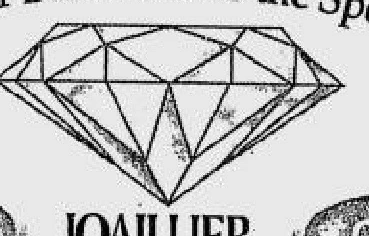

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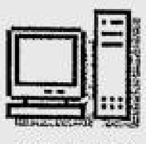

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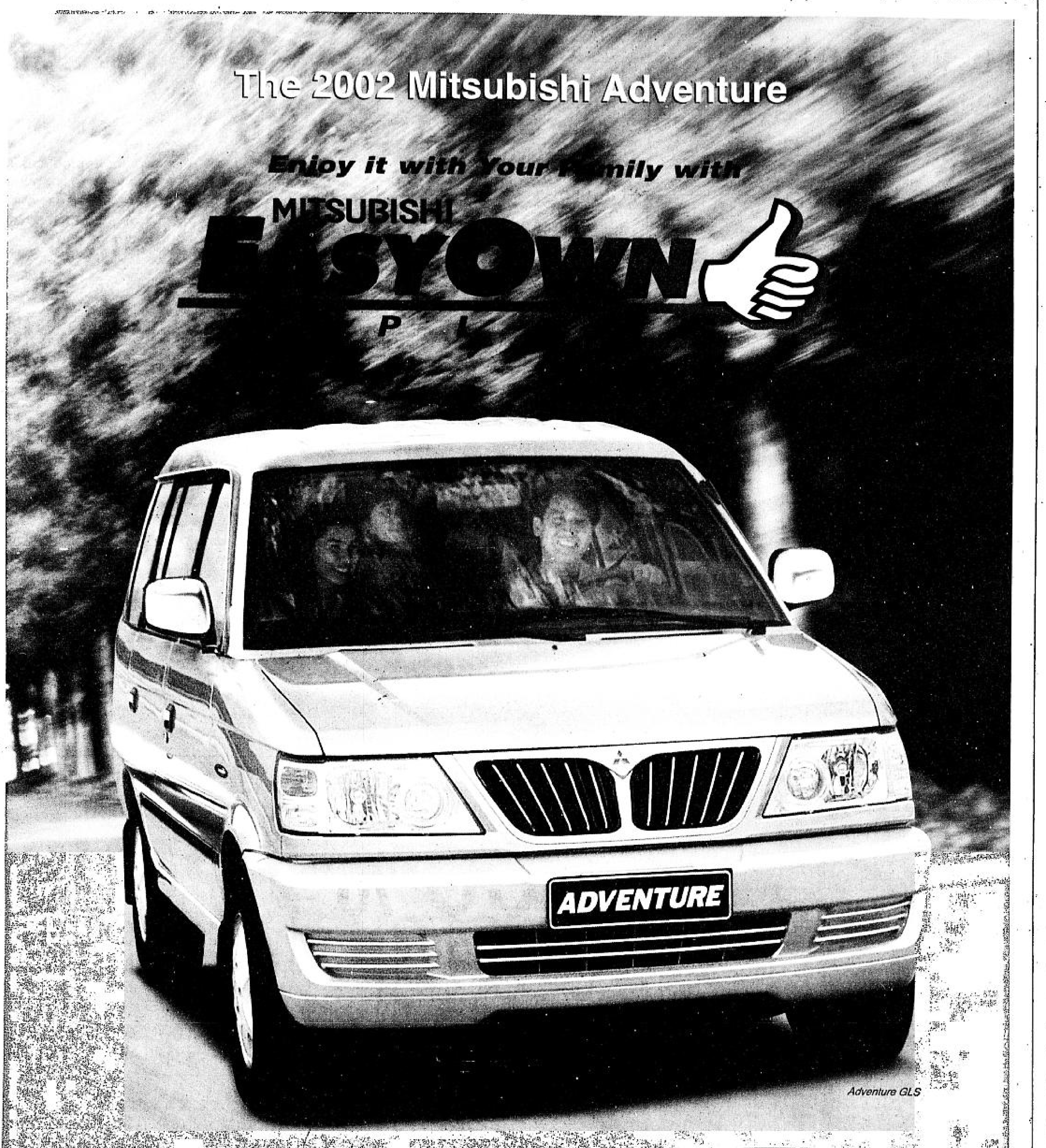
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GLS Gas M/T	710,000	352,500	12,137	8,861
Gas A/T	745,000	370,000	12,739	9,301
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	360,000	12,395	9,049
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	385,000	13,256	9,678
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	375,000	12,911	9,426
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Napocor scrambles for solutions to blackouts

By C. Gaylican

THREATENED by a display of presidential anger, National Power Corp. officials are scrambling around trying to come up with adequate measures to prevent massive power outages similar to the Luzon-wide blackout last week.

Napocor president Jesus N. Alcordo said that despite the state-owned power generating firm's financial difficulties, it has drawn up a power system strengthening scheme to forestall a repeat of the Nov. 4 blackout.

The three consecutive days of unstable power supply and rotating blackouts in Luzon were said to have exasperated the President, who threatened energy and Napocor officials with dismissal, even more.

Last Thursday, a 30-minute blackout occurred in Malacañang when a Meralco transformer broke down.

Napocor said that the most it can do is try to minimize the possibility of other major power outages in the metropolis.

One of the options it has presented is implementing a minimum stable loading system. This means building power plants with lower power loads making it easier for them to recover when they break down.

Splitting grid

Another option is to split up the Luzon grid into several smaller grids to minimize the impact of simultaneous line-tripping, a term used to refer to a plant or transmission line undergoing power problems.

"What we are doing now is to make sure that this will not happen again," Alcordo said in a statement.

He said Napocor has scheduled a meeting with Mirant Phils., the independent power producer, which operates the Sual and Pagbilao.

It was the breakdown of the Sual plant that triggered last week's blackout.

Another short-term strategy proposed by Napocor is the completion of rehabilitation work on the Kalayaan and Casecnan hydro-power plants and the Zapote substation. It also proposes to upgrade the 230-kilovolt San Jose-Tayabas line to 500 kilovolts by yearend.

For the medium term, Napocor said it would coordinate with Mirant in upgrading the easy-start-up capability of these power plants, Napocor said it would also "fast track" its projects aimed at upgrading electromechanical relay systems and telecommunications system.

Long-term

For the long term, Napocor intends to complete the construction and upgrading of transmission lines in the Batangas-Laguna areas by 2004 to provide alternative paths for the transfer of power from the Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo natural gas plants and Calaca coal-fired gas plant to eliminate transmission line constraints.

Napocor will also work on the completion of Kalayaan 3 and 4 plants in 2004, thereby boosting its line-up of regulating plants and further strengthen the system.

Impeachment case dead–Desierto

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

DISMISSING the impeachment complaint against him as a momentary storm, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday declared the issue dead. He was moving on and focusing "everything" on the prosecution of ousted President Joseph Estrada whose days, he said, were numbered.

"Now we can put it (the impeachment complaint) aside and concentrate on the most important case of this century—the plunder complaint against an ex-president," he said.

He vowed to use all the government resources under his disposal to make sure that Estrada and all those accused with him are punished.

On Friday, businessman Luke Roxas executed an affidavit disowning his former lawyer, Ernesto Francisco, who had filed the impeachment complaint against Desierto.

Roxas said Francisco's allegations against the Ombudsman were all false.

Francisco, a former associate lawyer of the Accra law firm, has charged Desierto with "bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust" for allegedly accepting a bribe in exchange for delaying a case involving Roxas in 1997.

"Everybody knows that the impeachment complaint was filed to distract the prosecution panel," said Desierto, the lead prosecutor in the Estrada trial at the Sandiganbayan.

"They want the Ombudsman busy so he will not be able to do his job," he said.

Desierto has claimed that the filing of the impeachment complaint against him was part of a "well-funded demolition job aimed at all the institutions involved in the trial of Estrada."

"But they can't rock our determination. We will prove them wrong," he declared.

In his affidavit, Roxas said he did not authorize Francisco to file the complaint on his behalf, and accused Francisco of "grossly unethical conduct" in "concocting utterly false statements."

Francisco himself admitted in an earlier interview that he did not consult, or ask, Roxas before he filed the complaint with the House of Representatives last Tuesday.

"I categorically deny the allegations of Atty. Ernesto Francisco Jr. that I bribed Desierto or any other government official," Roxas said in his affidavit.

He said he received a copy of the impeachment complaint and a threatening letter from Francisco last Nov. 7.

Roxas denied allegations that he had ordered Francisco to give a set of video equipment and P500,000 to Desierto.

He said that by "revealing publicly without my consent the details of the legal matters I entrusted to him as my lawyer," Francisco had betrayed his lawyer's oath.

Roxas is the controlling stockholder of several companies, including the financially ailing ASB Realty. He also owned the defunct Bank of Southeast Asia that is now known as DBS-Philippines.

He is being investigated by the justice department after some 50 Chinese investors filed charges against him for allegedly paying the interest and principal on investments amounting to P3.9 billion.

Letting Erap go to stabilize RP–Saguisag

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

ALLOWING jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada to seek medical treatment abroad for a few weeks "may help stabilize" the political situation in the country in the face of recurring coup rumors, lawyers of the ousted leaders claimed.

This is one of the reasons cited in a motion filed before the Sandiganbayan yesterday seeking permission from the court to allow Estrada to undergo knee surgery in the US.

". . . Without meaning to be self-important, his temporary absence may help stabilize the situation in whatever small way he can contribute, even as he denies emphatically having anything to do with the rumored coups," defense counsel Rene Saguisag wrote.

But the motion contradicted what Estrada was reported to have said on radio last Friday. He said he was willing to drop the request to avoid stirring up controversy.

The motion also contained a subtle warning to the court.

"He (Estrada) has very bad eyes and very bad knees, and on the heavy side and heaven forbid that anything should happen to him where he is," it said.

The motion also said the defense panel would be "willing to assume responsibility should accused fail to return."

Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito also "is willing to resign" if her husband uses the US trip to flee, it said.

It also noted that since Estrada has been arraigned, his trial for plunder could proceed in his absence.

Attached to the 6-page motion was the purported July 20, 2001 medical bulletin issued by Estrada's California-based bone surgeon, Dr. Christopher Mow, in which the doctor said it would be best for his 64-year-old patient to be treated in the US as the Philippines lacked the proper equipment.

The letter was released to media by the Estrada-backed Partido ng Masa Pilipino opposition party.

Defense lawyer Raymund Fortun said tomorrow's plunder hearing had been canceled because of a meeting between Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide and the two feuding Sandiganbayan justices, Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and 3rd Division chair Anacleto Badoy.

Badoy's two member justices have also been called to meeting, leaving the 3rd division with no one to conduct the afternoon hearing.

US Navy ship docks at Subic

BY ANSBERT JOAQUIN
PDI·Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—A dock landing ship of the United States Navy docked here "for rest and recreation" on Saturday, fueling rumors that the visit is part of the ongoing US-led global fight against terrorism in Afghanistan.

But USS Germantown commanding officer, Bradley Martin, assured reporters here that the rumors surrounding the visit are just plain rumors. The visit nonetheless drew mixed reactions from the city's businessmen and non-government organizations.

Martin said the visit is part of the ongoing US Pacific Command engagement "with our friends in the region."

"We are here for a visit and for some rest and recreation following our humanitarian assistance operation in East Timor," he said.

The 609-foot vessel and its 700-member personnel are tasked to transport, launch and support landing craft and helicopters carrying US Marines during amphibious operations against hostile shores. Its manpower includes 307 Navy personnel and 456 US Marines.

It carries with it the new Landing Craft Air Cushion, an assault hovercraft with the ability to exceed 40 knots while carrying a 60-ton payload.

This allows the craft to make amphibious assaults against a wide range of beaches.

USS Germantown played a significant role during the Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the 1990s.

Martin declined to answer repeated queries from reporters on where the US dock landing ship will proceed after its visit to Subic.

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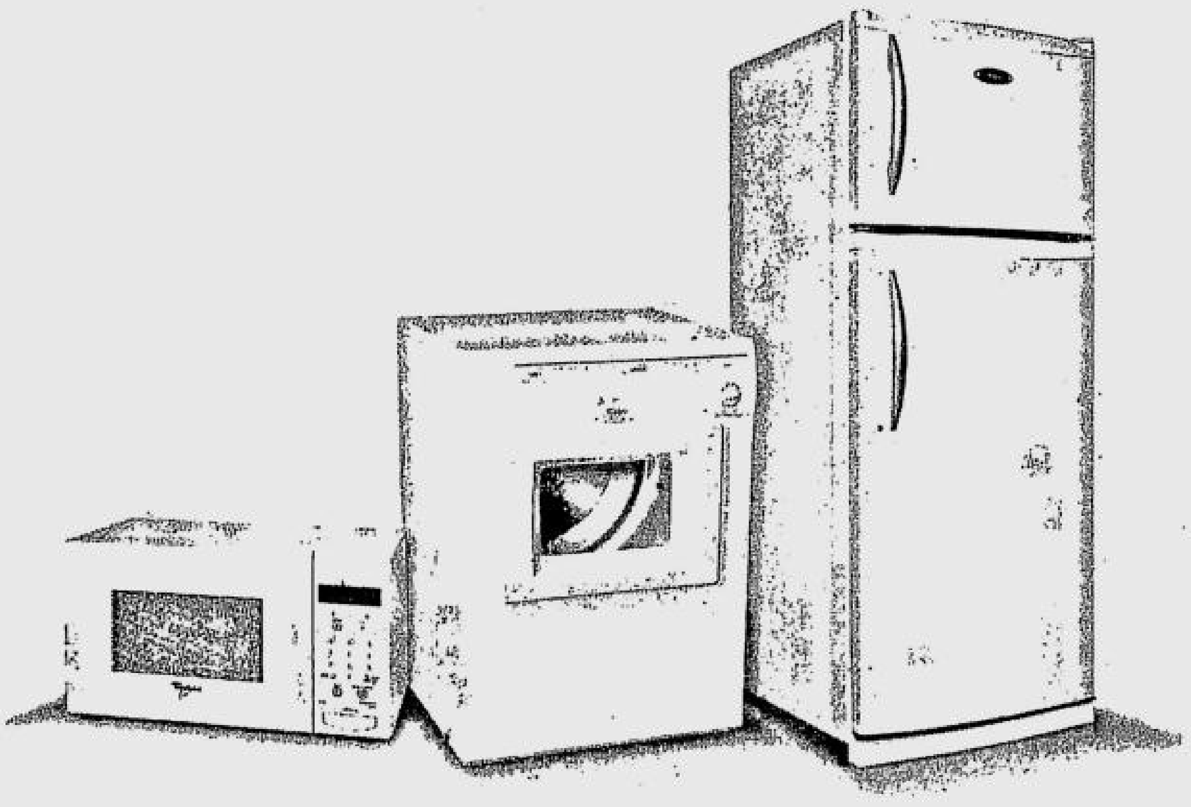

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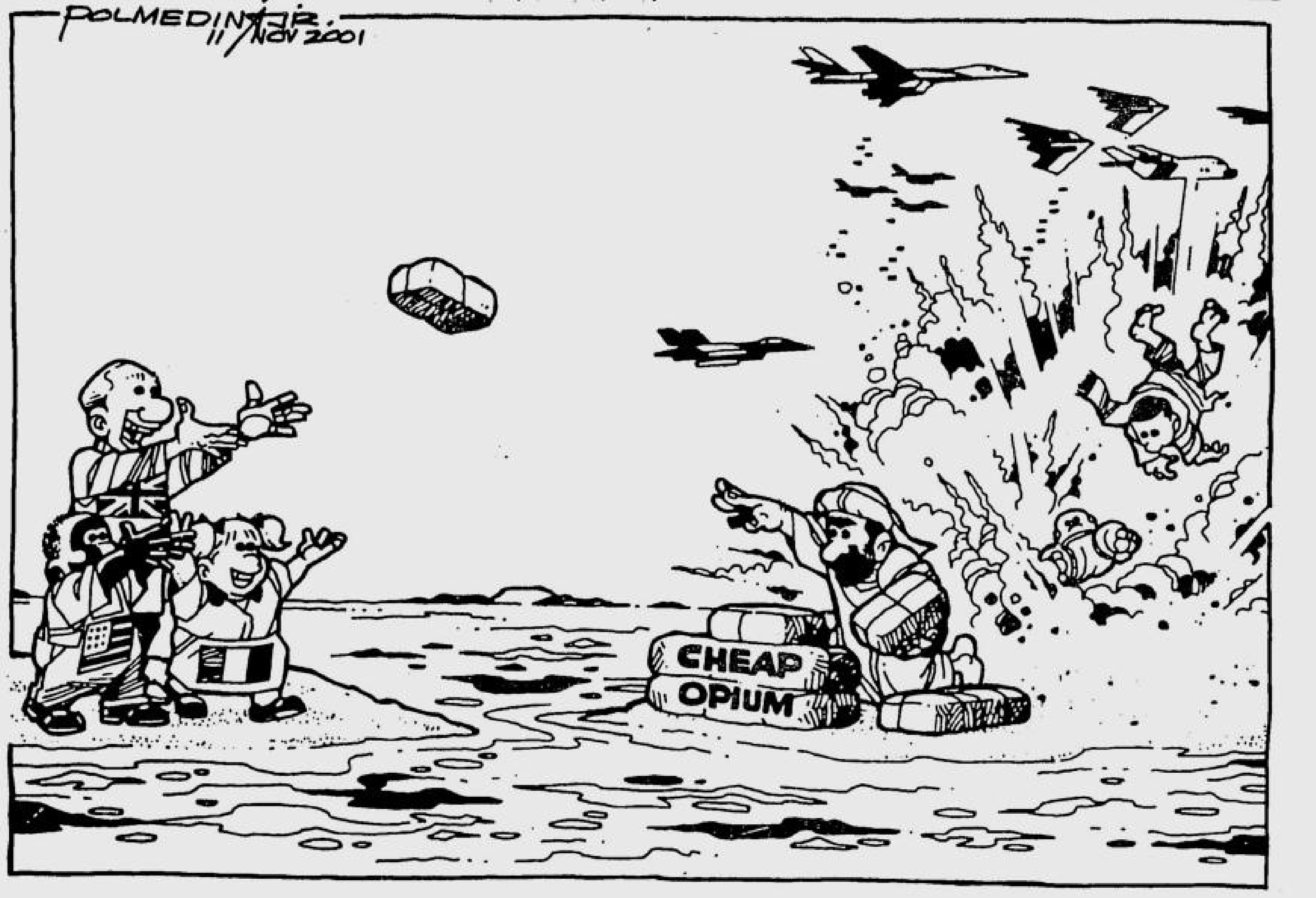


EDITORIALS

National icon

IN A CAREER spanning nearly 50 years, Nida Blanca started and perfected the figure of the tomboy, the small-town girl with the comely mien and rough exterior who is one of the boys. In fact, she is more brawny than the boys as she takes to brawls like a street-fighter. Nobody dares cross her path. Those who do are certain to meet disaster.

In her playful early performances as a bellicose beauty, Blanca prefigured the tension between fetching beauty and riotous violence. The comic conceit ensured that no matter how many times she flicked the switchblade and struck the pugilist's pose, the rumble would not end in a blast but a whimper—a smacking whimper in fact, particularly when Blanca's tempestuous tomboy would be tamed by the kiss of Nestor de Villa's bungling but handsome and determined suitor.

It is with shock then that the nation has greeted the news that Blanca has been brutally murdered. No one deserves to die that way, even if he or she has a tendency to wave the fist and challenge everyone to fisticuffs. No one deserves an ignominious death, most especially Blanca, who represented within her long career, the different images and facets of the Filipina.

Indeed, unique among actresses, Blanca ceaselessly reinvented her career with panache and acuteness so that toward the end of her life, she enjoyed the status as one of the most accomplished and iconic of entertainers. She performed with ease in both comic and dramatic roles, becoming in fact the first Filipina to win an Asian acting award for her movie about the Korean War.

She suffered public opprobrium for slapping a driver in a traffic altercation. But she regained her composure and her feisty self and went to Hukbalahap territory in Central Luzon to negotiate the surrender of a guerrilla leader and his men. Certified Nida Blanca fans, the communists gave up their arms and returned to the fold of the law.

After becoming a tomboy icon, Blanca put on her dancing shoes and displayed a no mean terpsichorean talent that paved her transition to television. "The Nida and Nestor Show" set the standard for musical variety television that remains unmatched up to now.

Toward middle life, in the 1970s, Blanca reinvented herself as the nation's favorite mom in the long-running television sitcom and movie series "John en Marsha." As self-sacrificing wife to Dolphy's poor but proud husband, she made every Filipino home a haven of homespun family values.

In the 1980s, Blanca reengineered her career and took on serious dramatic roles that in the hands of lesser actresses could have deteriorated into bathos and melodrama. In Eddie Garcia's "Saan Darating ang Umaga?" and Lino Brocka's "Miguelito, Batang Rebelde," Blanca showed nerves of steel and emotions of pyre that catapulted her to the company of the nation's movie acting greats, such as Lolita Rodriguez and Charito Solis.

Blanca closed the century with a bang. In 1998, she starred in a low-budget movie, Jeff Jeturian's "Sana Pag-ibig Na," where she played a naïve widow who suddenly discovers from her husband's effects that he had in fact betrayed her. The change from a simple and loving wife to a woman wronged and enraged was searing and volcanic. Blanca managed the role with her trademark fiery chic and effortless poise. The next year she won nearly all of the acting awards for that role. In 2000, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino gave her the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Icon forever

TOWARD the end of her life, Nida Blanca was playing grandmother roles. Considering her adept career management and flawless instinct, she could have graduated as the nation's favorite grandmom. In dotage as in youth, she would have been the nation's darling.

But the nation has been deprived of such a beautiful prospect. Blanca's body lies bloodied and lifeless, the victim of an assault that was merciless as it was senseless.

But even in her death, Blanca represents the sensibilities of a nation that has been sustained by her spunk, mettle and charisma. In facing off her attacker—perhaps even fighting him or her off because she was a fighter through and through—and in being so wantonly killed in the dead of night, she represented our vulnerabilities and nakedness. Like her, we too have been stabbed many times. We mourn for ourselves as much as for her. In life and in death, Nida Blanca is an icon of our most cherished dreams and harshest nightmares.

A century of service

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN MY book "Res Gestae: A Brief History of the Supreme Court," I make passing reference to the Coudert Brothers, a law partnership established in our country in 1899 as a branch of its main office on Wall Street. Originally composed of only American lawyers, it was to metamorphose over the years to become the prestigious law firm of Siguion Reyna, Montecillo & Ongsiako, which will be celebrating its centenary this coming Wednesday at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

The name partners of the firm are Leonardo Siguion Reyna, Manuel Montecillo, and Oscar Ongsiako. Siguion Reyna and Montecillo are hotshot lawyers with a wealth of experience in trial and corporate practice, as so was Ongsiako, who passed away in 1995. The firm also includes other lawyers specialized in various fields like litigation, labor, taxation, corporation and intellectual property laws. It counts with a reputable and prosperous clientele, including many companies abroad.

In addition to the name partners, the firm has a roster of 45 lawyers, of whom 21 are partners. The rest are associates who, like the rest of the staff, are periodically evaluated for possible adjustment of their status with the corresponding change in compensation. This is computed, among other factors, under a merit system based on a yearly quota assigned to each lawyer that he is expected to fill. It keeps everyone on his toes.

The law firm also allows selected law students to serve as interns so they can prepare themselves for the actual practice of the law even before passing the bar examinations. It is also the policy of the firm to draft promising new lawyers who have distinguished themselves in their studies, with no particular preference for any school, or in the bar examinations. A big enough administrative staff takes care of the non-legal work of the firm.

Siguion Reyna, Montecillo & Ongsiako recently transferred to its new offices at Citibank Center in Makati where it occupies two floors. When I visited there last August, it had not yet really settled down, with piles and piles of still unfiled case records that have accumulated through the years. What especially impressed me was the library, which could not be accommodated in one capacious room but had spilled into the corridors lined with bookshelves. Awarded by the Supreme Court as one of the best law libraries in the country, it contains thousands of foreign and local titles.

Coudert Brothers actually began with Charles C. Cohn, who started his law practice in this country in 1901. Cohn teamed up briefly with John C. Davis and later with John Hausserman as the Manila branch of Coudert Bros. It later successively became Hausserman, Cohn, Williams & Van Dyke; Hausserman, Ortigas, Cohn & Fisher; Hausserman & Fisher; Gilbert, Hausserman, Cohn & Fisher; Gilbert, Cohn & Fisher; Cohn & Fisher; Cohn, Fisher & De Witt; Fisher & De Witt; Fisher, De Witt, Perkins & Brady; and De Witt, Perkins & Brady. In 1935, Alfonso Ponce Enrile joined the firm to change its name to De Witt, Perkins, Brady & Ponce Enrile. With the withdrawal of Brady, it became De Witt, Perkins & Ponce Enrile. The firm name did not change until 1947 when, with De Witt's retirement after a cerebral stroke, it became Perkins, Ponce Enrile, Contreras & Gomez.

Among the Filipinos subsequently admitted into the partnership were Gonzalo Gonzales, Leonardo Siguion Reyna, Manuel Montecillo, Mariano Carbonell, Enrique Belo and Oscar Ongsiako. With the withdrawal of Belo in 1972 as partner, the law firm acquired its present name of Siguion Reyna, Montecillo & Ongsiako.

Over the years, the firm has handled many significant cases, most of them dealing with corporate and business practices. It has also expanded lately into the intellectual property field where it has attracted many foreign clients. For all its busy schedule, however, it always reserves part of its time to *pro bono* cases as well as those assigned to it by the courts as counsel *de oficio*. It also engages in civic work as part of its regular activities.

The success of the law firm is reflected in the list of its "alumni" who have branched out to other fields, mostly politics and business. Among these are Antonio Meer, Francisco Sumulong, Tomas Matic Jr., Augusto Almeda Lopez, Juan Ponce Enrile, Edgardo Angara, Luis Javellana, Magdangal Elma, Felipe Gozon, Fulgencio Factoran and Ernesto Maceda.

(This is a random selection based only on inadequate research and recollection. I beg the pardon of other distinguished *compañeros* inadvertently omitted.)

Significantly, the firm itself has steered clear of politics despite the inclinations of some of its staff as displayed in their later activities. This sound policy has avoided its involvement in partisan conflicts that otherwise might have affected its relations with its clients and the government as well, particularly the courts.

Except for the name partners who are already in their 70s (but are not yet tottering antiques), the law firm is composed of lawyers mostly in their 40s and early 50s. They will take over the helm after Sig and Monte retire although, it is hoped, not in the near future. These two gentlemen (together with the late Mr. Ongsiako) have been leading the office for so many years and have trained their potential successors well. The firm will be in competent hands when the torch is passed.

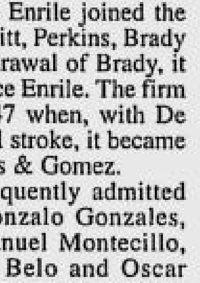
The law firm has, indeed, much to celebrate as it looks back to a century of service to the Filipino people in the courts of the land. It has weathered many a storm in our history, from the imposition of American imperialism, through the travail of the Japanese Occupation, the ordeal of martial law, the mockery of the Erap years, and the pride and glory of Edsa I and II. Through all these aberrations, it has stood fast and as a stolid sentinel of the impartial law and a respectable leader of the legal profession.

On the occasion of its centenary, I am happy to extend my cordial congratulations to the Siguion Reyna, Montecillo & Ongsiako Law Offices, the oldest in the country and a worthy example of the nobility and integrity of the practice of law. I am sure the members of the Philippine bar and bench join me in wishing it continued brilliant success in its upright and competent advocacy of justice as the symbol of the free society.

Till we meet again

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



THE STORY is told about a family that lived inside a matchbox and whose life was miserable because it was dark and crowded inside. Their most awaited moment was whenever the matchbox was opened and one of their brothers is taken out, never again to be seen.

One day, one of the matchsticks accidentally fell out of the matchbox and he was amazed by the bright light all around all the time. He saw what happened to his brothers who were pulled out of the box. One was used as a toothpick, and the other was used for cleaning the ears! But his greatest joy was when he saw a man pull out a matchbox, strike it and light came forth. "My gosh," he said, "The light we are looking and longing for, is already within us!"

According to the story, the man picked up the matchstick and put it back into the matchbox. Reunited with his family, he tried to convince everyone that the light they are looking for was already within them. Some believed him, while others did not.

End of the story.

* * *

Jesus Christ was the only person who rose from the dead and came back to tell us the good news that there is something beautiful after this life. There is life after death because of the Resurrection. Today's Gospel (Lk. 20,27-38) is indeed Good News when it speaks of the children of God who can "no longer die, for they are like angels." Because of the Resurrection, and because we know that our God is a God of the living, we can face the pain of death with hope. And because our God is a personal, loving God, we can face all the trials, suffering and incompleteness of this life with courage. *May bukas pa. May pag-asa!*

* * *

Yesterday, we buried my friend and chosen brother, Sonny Sison, in Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

No matter how we look at it, it is painful to see a loved one go. In time we will cope and accept, but the pain remains. But also, hope remains that we will meet again, after moments or lifetimes. He has gone out of our sight, but we can go back to our hearts and there find him, find each other and find God.

A grain of wheat falls and dies. May the death of a loved one bear fruit in each and every one of us who are left behind. If we do not become better persons, then that loved one has somehow died in vain.

* * *

Remember a loved one who has gone ahead. If only he or she could speak to you now, he or she would like to tell you three things: First: "I'm okay. I'm now in this kingdom where there are no more tears, no more pain, no more problems, no more sorrow, no more goodbyes." Second: "Thank you for your love for me when I was still alive and even now. Love one another. Keep working on love. Love—not money, not power—is all that really matters in the end." Third, "See you in heaven! Make sure you go to heaven. Live a life worthy of heaven so that we will meet each other again!"

* * *

I have said so many goodbyes in my lifetime. What has made these goodbyes bearable and meaningful is the presence of God. "It is only bodies that are separated, but minds and hearts remain united, especially in Him, for whom the sacrifice is made of leaving all that is dearest."

May the Lord bless all our goodbyes. Death is the big letting go and letting God. We have to accept that in the end, the people we hold dear in our hearts belong to God and can be loved only by God more than by us.

Just when I was grappling with letting go, I received this text message from Cristy Aspiras about an old Buddhist saying: "In the end only three things matter: how fully you lived, how deeply you loved, and how well you learned to let go of things not meant for you."

* * *

Allow me to share a poem, titled "Alone yet not alone," for those of us who have lost a loved one:

Alone yet never quite alone.
I have an empty chair—
but sometimes in the silence,
I imagine you are there.
The good companion of the past,
no longer here with me;
and yet in some mysterious ways,
You keep me company
Thought or spirit?
Does it matter?
Words are meaningless.
I only know that in my times
of greatest loneliness,
I feel that you are somewhere near
though nothing's seen or said,
the bitter moment passes and
My heart is comforted.
I receive the strength I need,
I am rescued from despair;
maybe that's the way God's works—
the answer to a prayer.
Though the pain is nevbr lost
and the future is unknown,
I face the years that lie ahead,
alone, yet not alone...

* * *

Thank you. I'm sorry. I love you.

These are the words we often say when a loved one is already in the coffin. Why don 't you say them now to the persons who are still with you? Say them often. Say them now while you are still alive, while they are still live.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, after this life, I want to meet you and my loved ones again in heaven. Amen.

Neglected vehicle for development

COMMENTARY

Manuel E. Valdehuesa Jr.

LAST Oct. 28, I half expected something like a national gathering and a partial straightening out of the priorities of every community in the country. My expectation was triggered by a circular issued by Interior Secretary Jose Lina over a month earlier to all mayors and barangay officials, enjoining them to convene the Barangay Assembly on Oct. 28.

Obviously, no one took Lina seriously.

This assembly is perhaps the most neglected institutional vehicle not just for the solution of the nation's problems, but especially for the development of its resources, which are found in the 42,000 barangays. It is probably also the most atrociously managed instrumentality of the government.

Just imagine: a huge enterprise whose smallest operating units total 42,000 in all and no one's paying attention to it. Any executive knows that for an enterprise to grow and progress, each of its operating units must perform efficiently and productively. The conduct or quality of governance in our barangays is a serious matter. If we cannot manage this smallest unit of government properly, how can we expect good governance at higher and more complicated levels?

The barangay is our basic community. Its government has ample powers, resources and flexibility to cope with the problems and challenges of the community and its neighborhood. It has executive, legislative and judicial branches. It has its own sources of revenue, with a full complement of personnel, equipment and what have you. Since it is also a corporate unit, it can make the local economy grow and invest its funds in all sorts of employment-generating or poverty-alleviating programs.

Since everyone lives in a barangay, a community consisting of only a few hundred households within a territory of only a few dozen hectares, it shouldn't be difficult to pool managerial and technological ideas and resources for its advancement.

The Local Government Code states that all residents, 15 years old and above, are members of the Barangay Assembly, which must convene at least twice a year. Just 10 percent of the assembly members will constitute a quorum. As in stockholders' meetings, officials are to report on their barangay's activities, projects and finances and members have the right to inquire into their conduct. This is where citizens can ensure transparency and accountability for the billions of pesos barangays receive or collect for their operating requirements. The assembly is supposed to define the community's priorities and formulate a work plan, including a financial plan, for the subsequent period.

Take Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City, which includes Payatas. Its income from internal revenue share alone exceeds P20 million, not counting the city government's and other agencies' services. Do the professionals or its affluent residents know how the fund is managed and what kind of programs are being planned for their neighborhood? Are they satisfied with the criteria or standards being used in allocating the expenditures and implementing the programs?

Since the barangay is also a corporate entity, what investment plans can be developed so that the revenue can be doubled, even tripled? Some barangays earn much more than many cities and municipalities. In a medium-size city like Cagayan de Oro, barangays earn between P2.5 million and P10 million. In the province or municipality, the minimum revenue is P.5 million. Projected over 5 to 10 years, we're talking hundreds of millions for build-operate-transfer projects, even low-cost housing in many barangays. We don't have to wait for the city, provincial or national government to fulfill our relatively modest needs.

The reason governance sucks in this country is that those who should know better leave the management of the enterprise entirely to others. They don't have to run for barangay captain or *kagawad*, they just have to be attentive and involved as citizens should be in a democracy, pitching in for their neighborhood. Of course, this suits those in office just fine; because they get to do their thing unhampered and uninhibited by the niceties of accountability and participatory planning.

The Barangay Assemblies need to convene periodically so citizens can have control of their community or at least influence the direction of its development. That's also the only way every nook and cranny of this archipelago will get the attention it deserves. Not only is it required by law, it is necessary for democracy to function properly and for a balanced development of each community.

The squalor and disorder that characterize our communities can be traced to the apathy or non-involvement of its upper-crust residents, who prefer to stay within the antiseptic confines of gated enclaves within the barangay, unmindful of the rising sea of poverty, corruption and vice around them. Are we going to wait until the tide crashes down on us like the mounds of Payatas or the floods of Ormoc?

The Local Government Code remains a useless piece of legislation if people don't learn to wield the powers guaranteed by it. Until we learn the basic requirements of autonomy, let's not even bother to talk of federalism.

Meanwhile, it's time to remind everyone that the reason barangay officials are supposed to be selected on a non-partisan basis is that they're supposed to be focused on the development of their community. That is to say, their loyalty must be to the community and not to the political bosses. They must be firmly reminded that it's not their job to organize *hakot* crowds or act as enforcers of the political agendas of *trapos*. Most important of all, they should realize that we can recall them if they are incompetent or corrupt.

Anyone interested in fixing this dysfunctional system of government at the grass roots may contact the Task Force for Good Governance.

Manuel E. Valdehuesa Jr. is a convenor of the Task Force for Good Governance, a farmer and former regional director for Asia and the Pacific of Unesco.

Any room for compromise?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JUST to bring a fresh perspective on the contentious issue of the use of an "open space" in Greenmeadows by a private school, here are some comments from lawyer Veneranda Acaylar-Cruz. Acaylar-Cruz, an active officer of the homeowners' association of BF Homes Parañaque, wants to share some of their "lessons learned" in dealing with similar issues.

On the matter of co-existence between homeowners and schools within subdivisions, Acaylar-Cruz says that while they had "initial skirmishes over traffic and some such (issues), we have actually incorporated (the schools) into our association's administrative structure." The major schools in the area, such as Manresa, Marymount, Southville International, Montessori de Manila, Ann Arbor Montessori and Prep Camp, are organized into the Council of Educational Institutions Inc. and its president sits as co-chair of the United BF Homeowners' Association Inc. (UBFHAI) committee on education. Together, says Acaylar-Cruz, the council and the association have formulated guidelines for the schools in the subdivision.

"The basic fact is that schools are really integral parts of a subdivision community, such that large subdivision projects as ours are actually required to have such facilities, among others. Mind that this is easily said on paper, but infinitely harder to make some homeowners understand. And the present relationship indeed went through some trying times," relates Acaylar-Cruz.

With goodwill on both sides and a willingness to seek a workable compromise for the best interests of homeowners, school owners, students and families, a modus vivendi can surely be arranged and adhered to.

* * *

BUT, as Quezon City Councilor Antonio Inton, the main proponent of the revocation of the memorandum of agreement with Paref-Northfield, points out, "the issue is not the school…but the violations of the law" allegedly committed in the signing of the MOA.

Acaylar-Cruz notes that "there are still many gray areas in the use of open spaces in private subdivisions." Their own association has a petition pending resolution in the Supreme Court where one of the issues is use of open spaces.

"The Greenmeadows homeowners are right in that their consent should have been secured before the developer's donation and waiver on the construction of a school in an open space in the subdivision," Acaylar-Cruz says. "For while a developer, under the law, may donate open spaces to the local government unit concerned, there is another dynamic that must be considered: the homeowners who bought their properties in a private subdivision have effectively paid for those open spaces, the cost of which was already tacked into the price of their lots.

"When a subdivision, therefore, is sold out or almost sold out before a donation is made, the developer is not donating property it fully owns anymore. In such a case, that donation must have the consent of the homeowners as beneficial and actual co-owners. And the reservation under the law of open spaces for public use can only mean in our cases for the public use of the homeowners for whose benefit the said open spaces were constituted in the first place."

* * *

ONE thing seems clear amid the heat and smoke generated by the controversy: If and when Paref-Northfield does manage to construct its school building in the disputed "open space," it will find itself within hostile territory unless it manages to reach a compromise with the homeowners, not just of Greenmeadows III, but of all the surrounding villages.

A school is usually a "community center" for the entire area. It would be sad to see it shunned by resentful homeowners or harassed by the neighboring homeowners' associations. Would such a hostile setting be in the best interests of its students?

In a letter, Inton says there are hundreds of "open spaces" owned by the city government, and he is sure Paref-Northfield could identify a site on which their school may be built under the same arrangement without the "current restrictions and problems" of Greenmeadows.

"If the problem is solved on the negotiating table, well and good," agrees Acaylar-Cruz. "Otherwise, the only solution is the long hard climb of litigation where due process can drive ordinary mortals to the brink of ennui."

* * *

IT'S a typical schoolyard scene. One boy taunts another, words escalate into action, and fisticuffs ensue. Seeing the tumult, teachers rush to the scene and separate the two boys. End of the story.

But in one school in Muntinlupa recently, after the boys were separated and while teachers were getting to the bottom of the incident, one boy collapsed and started frothing at the mouth. Teachers and school personnel at first tried to revive him and then rushed him to a hospital. But the boy was dead on arrival.

It is tragic enough that the fracas resulted in the death of one boy. But when the other boy's future is ruined because of the incident, that seems a needless and tragic waste.

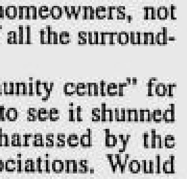
Relatives of the surviving boy say that while they understand the dead boy's family's grief and anger, they are appealing for some understanding and compassion. Accompanied by his parents and relatives, the boy, who is 12 years old, went to the police station and complied with all the requirements. It was then agreed that the Department of Social Welfare and Development would take responsibility for the boy, though he would remain under his parents' custody. But when they went back to the station to sign some papers, the police refused to release the boy, saying the dead boy's parents objected to the arrangement.

Since this was on a Friday afternoon, the parents had no way of arranging for bail, and so their 12-year-old son is spending the weekend in jail, albeit in a cell reserved for minors.

A friend who told me the story says the boy's mother looks like "she herself has lost a son." Certainly, let justice take its course, but compounding the tragedy is surely not going to help anybody in its aftermath.

Limbs to go: an Indian lesson

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

AN ARTISAN, squatting on the bare floor, pounds a sheet of aluminum into the shape of a leg and attaches it to the live stump of an amputee. The patient looks at it, feels it, and smiles. Amputee and artisan work in perfect unison until they get it right. The new limb is then covered with resin and painted in the color of the patient's skin.

This is a daily scene at Dr. P.K. Sethi's Jaipur Limb Center in Rajasthan, Northern India.

Just a few hundred miles away, across the border from Pakistan, jet planes are pounding Afghanistan, the world's most underdeveloped country, with the latest bombs. The United States has just deployed a new weapon against the elusive Taliban. Reports say that it produces the same frightening mushroom cloud as the nuclear bomb, and that the heat it releases penetrates through underground desert sanctuaries and sends shock waves up to about 500 meters. The Americans won't rest until they get it right. The idea is to be able to wipe out the enemy without having to commit US ground troops.

We have here two examples of the conflicting uses of technology: one that creates and another that destroys. By some paradox, it has always seemed that more money is spent on the development of war technology than on peaceful technology. Fortunately, a few creative scientists manage to refashion technology originally intended for war into everyday tools beneficial to humanity. The Internet is a case in point.

Modernity has placed in our hands a large array of devices and appliances that can either support life or end it. All over the world, technology is changing the way we live in a manner usually not chosen. It is incredible how we typically sleepwalk through this complex process, allowing technology to alter our relationships and to dictate how we must live. This is especially so in societies like ours that have become total consumers rather than makers of technology.

This lesson became real for me recently on a visit with Dr. P.K. Sethi, 1981 Magsaysay awardee for community leadership, and the man behind the "Jaipur Foot." Sethi's story is a fascinating illustration of how nations can serve their people, especially the poorest, without being dependent on foreign technology but also without having to supply them with inferior goods.

As a young doctor coming home from post-graduate training in Scotland, Sethi was assigned to organize the orthopedic department of Jaipur's state hospital. He soon realized that surgery was useless to patients if they were not also provided with braces and prostheses to help them stand upright and move about. Most of the patients were polio victims, but a growing number were poor people who had to have their lower limbs amputated as a result of falling off from overcrowded trains. Imported artificial limbs and braces were beyond their reach. Sethi needed a workshop in which to make local limbs. The project was hobbled by lack of funds, and he found himself working in abandoned garages.

He and his team of unlettered but highly skilled craftsmen began with molds taken from prostheses imported from the West. They tried wood and experimented with rubber, until they could produce what they thought was a suitable local version. His patients, however, rejected these limbs and kept going back to their crutches. There was something wrong with the Western designs. His patients needed artificial limbs they could use bare, or slip into open sandals, and wash at the end of the day.

Sethi says: "Wearing shoes which were integral to the Western designed limbs was uncomfortable in our hot climate. Our people walk barefoot or in well-ventilated footwear. We are essentially a floor-sitting people, requiring a range of mobility in our feet and knees which is not needed in the chair-sitting culture of the West. We should not expect our people to change their lifestyle because of a design we were forcing on them."

He decided this was not a bio-mechanical problem, but a cultural one. Solving it required paying attention to user-reaction and understanding the everyday world in which his patients moved. The study that Sethi embarked upon is what we today would call a "phenomenology of technology."

But more than this, Sethi was conscious that those who most needed these limbs were the very poor. "This does not imply that we should provide primitive peg legs or substandard limbs to our people. What we have shown is that it is perfectly feasible to incorporate the latest ideas in science and yet provide an affordable limb. All frills are cut down to achieve this objective. Our limbs cost a fraction of otherwise extremely expensive limbs being marketed, and a below-knee artificial limb costs about as much as a pair of good shoes."

There is an upsurge of interest in Dr. Sethi's Jaipur limbs because of the sharp rise in the number of victims of land mines in countries ravaged by civil war. Afghanistan is possibly the most heavily land-mined country at present. Land mines are made to maim rather than kill, and their common victims have been the poor in the countryside: peasants, rural women and children. Dr. Sethi may soon have to open a workshop in Afghanistan if this nation must walk again.

That is however only the practical side. At a more philosophical level, Dr. Sethi's example is a timely reminder that technology with a human face is not only achievable; it is also an imperative in a world that is emptying human activity of all meaning in the name of mass production, profit and power.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

The moral ambiguities of the war on terrorism

COMMENTARY

Melba Padilla Maggay, Ph.D.

YEARS ago there was a movie on the presence of the US bases here, likening the fight against it to that of a little moth taking on a giant eagle—"*minsa'y isang gamugamo ang lumaban sa lawin*" This movie comes to mind again as we see a small cell of terrorists inflict damage, perhaps far beyond what was originally planned, on a perceived arch-enemy whose ubiquitous power and sheer size annoy many small nations into at least rattling it a bit.

It cannot be hidden, this repressed glee at seeing a lumbering giant hop and skip and fall after a bite on its heel. The Arab world crowed about it, sanctioned by its mullahs. The rest of us were appalled, while feeling some discomfort that the poor of the world die daily without notice, with neither rage nor whimper from those among us who can do something about it. It touched me to witness much of Europe simultaneously standing still a few days after, mourning in silence the death of those who perished. At the same time, there was this niggling sense that the outpouring of sympathy was as much a product of visual incitement from BBC and CNN as a moving testament to human solidarity in the face of grief.

From this little corner of the earth, I tend to look at this big event with the eyes of small people. This is not because I happen to believe that there is a genetic fault in our race which Nick Joaquin has called, quite controversially, our "heritage of smallness." It is simply because our circumstances as a failing state somehow connects me to many unsuccessful people all around the world who look at the doings of the great from the bottom side, or what the Latin Americans call the "underside of history."

The bombing of Afghanistan, for instance, feels like one of those things we expect from a war, or at least a war where one of the protagonists is so used to being big it cannot imagine any other way of "smoking out" the enemy than razing down to the ground an entire country. Like the Afghan refugees who have fled and now mass round the borders of surrounding countries, I sensed a kind of inevitability, a fatalism even, as we heard the distant drums of war getting nearer and nearer.

There is a certain inexorability about this tidal turn of events. It is a time for war, I said to myself, and no amount of shuttle diplomacy could put a stop to the logic of revenge.

The poor Afghans, perhaps inured to decades of conflict, quietly accepted the prospect of mass slaughter and hied off to the borders. For the powerless, the only wise thing to do is to get out of the way. As an African proverb nicely puts it, "When the elephants fight, the grass gets trampled upon."

It should be said, though, that this conflict is not, strictly speaking, a "war of the elephants." It has features that are quite unusual, perhaps because we are seeing asymmetries, things that do not quite fit conventional notions of what a war is about.

It is not only that the contest is uneven, with strange results. On the one side is a roused behemoth, smashing about with a sophisticated arsenal of killing machines. Yet, while the weaponry is said to be smart, they have yet to hit their intended targets. On the other side is a loose network of scattered groups of firebrands, holed up in caves or lurking in the shadows in major cities. Operating as discrete cells, they are intractable. With fairly low technology, they strike with astonishing precision, imagination and suicidal daring.

Yet what makes this war really quite unusual is the way it is framed in religious terms. As bystanders, we feel we are watching a deadly morality play, something straight out of the pages of history, as in early medieval times when religion defined what was significant and men and women lived and fought and died for it.

US President George W. Bush talks of the war against terrorism as part of his country's "calling," at one time saying it is a virtual "crusade," a quest for "infinite justice," a grand battle between good and evil. These are stirring words, resonating with that part of us that recoiled in shock and disbelief upon seeing so many innocent people sacrificed so coldly on the altar of a religious conviction gone haywire.

Then Osama bin Laden comes on our TV screens, swearing to God that " America will not live in peace before peace reigns in Palestine, and before all the army of infidels depart the land of Mohammed." In a single speech, he pulled together the many threads of grievance that the Arab world has against the United States and its allies, alluding to the suffering of innocents in Iraq, the carving up of Palestine, the unwelcome presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia. Such injuries reminded those of us in the Two-Thirds World of our own histories, of long-standing wrong in the hands of the West, with the United States as its leader in a continuing dominance that many of us resent.

The political element in all this makes us sympathetic to the underpinnings of Bin Laden's cause, though we may not share the twisted, tortuous conclusions to which he has brought the logic of his faith. The religious element in his crusade gives us the creeps, seeing how the Taliban has institutionalized its own brand of theocracy, turning a country into a clerical state that visits terror and retribution on those of its own citizens who do not happen to toe the line of its tight and narrow fundamentalism.

There are many things in this war that throw a wrench in our usual mental grid in doing analysis. Bin Laden is not, at bottom, a politician. He is instead a religious idealist, constructing from out of the mythic past an imaginary order built out of a resurgent faith and the decayed remains of an ancient civilization. As such he is intractable, foisting on us that margin of mystery where all our calculations collapse and we come face to face with the power of human recalcitrance.

It does not help that the United States, so far thwarted in its efforts at nailing down Bin Laden, seems bent on pulverizing Afghanistan till something gives way. The initial fellow-feeling in its time of sorrow is fast dwindling into discomfort over the heavy-handed way it pursues justice. From a moving woundedness as victim, it is now back to what the world perceived it to be: the big guy trying to police the neighborhood, this time also acting as judge and executioner.

These moral ambiguities, apart from the many unknowns of this conflict, lies behind much of the hesitation to support the United States militarily in its ongoing drive against terrorism. The recent Apec summit's refusal to back the United States in its military campaign is part of the general reluctance to get embroiled in what looks like a war against a people.

It is a wonder, in the light of this, that the Philippine government does not stop in its tracks and pause a bit. It is one thing to support the war against terrorism. It is another thing to assist in the bombing of a country wholesale, when all that is intended is to hunt down an elusive handful of misguided terrorists. Such actions merely serve to set militants aflame, instigating fresh recruits into marching in the streets or plotting mayhem, the hope of paradise glinting in their hard and shining eyes.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

So, who's afraid of Nur Misuari?

YOU cannot count this man out, you cannot count him out," the long-time leader of the Moro National Liberation Front thundered before a thousand supporters gathered in Sulu for the 5th National Bangsamoro Assembly. Did Nur Misuari mean he was returning to the hills, so to speak, because the national government is pushing through with the election to choose his replacement as governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao? The same government reportedly behind his ouster from the chairmanship of the MNLF? During his rousing, defiant speech, the man Moros of all sides call "Ma-as" or the grand old man said he was just waiting for a formal invitation from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to rejoin the struggle for an independent Muslim Mindanao. Is this act of bravado the start of a bloody new chapter, or a pathetic last gasp?

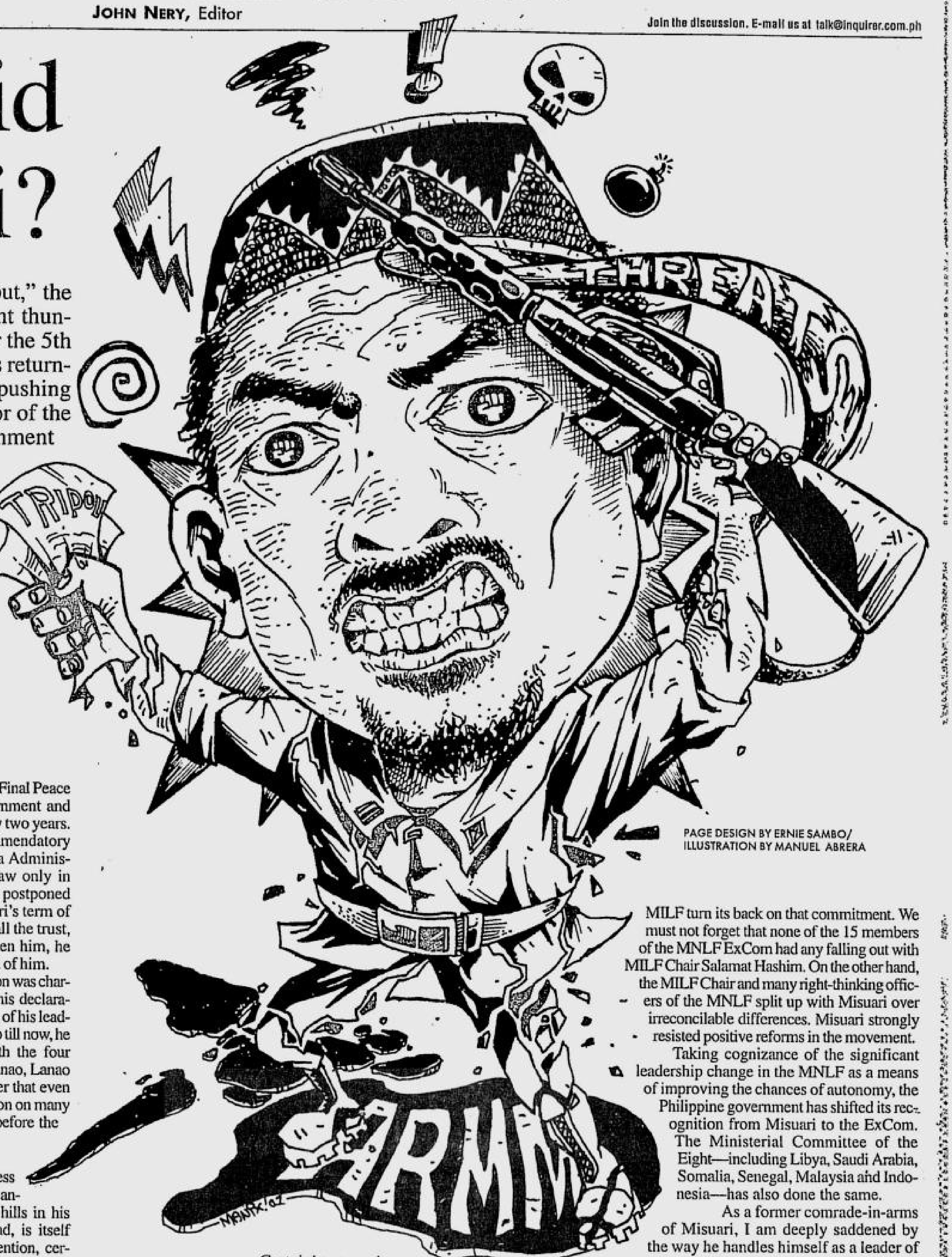

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ILLUSTRATION BY MANUEL ABRERA

No cause for panic

BY REP. GERRY SALAPUDDIN
Deputy Speaker for Mindanao, House of Representatives

ANY threat coming from any person, particularly someone like Nur Misuari, must be studied and evaluated objectively. But it must not be a cause for panic. Neither must it be taken lightly.

He is still part of the government, as he remains governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) until after his successor is elected and qualified to office in the Nov. 26, 2001 elections of the newly expanded autonomous region. On this point, the Secretary of Local Government Joey Lina or Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo must take appropriate action. This is not the first time that Misuari has issued statements bordering on sedition. Whether he is serious or just wanting attention so he won't be counted out should be considered. Unlike before, however, when Libya and Malaysia were willing to facilitate the training and the flow of war materials, now the faucet is dry. To wage a revolution without foreign assistance is suicidal and unattainable.

It cannot be said that Misuari, better known to the Tausog-speaking of Sulu as "Ma-as" (elder statesman) as a sign of high respect, was never given the chance both to lead the Bangsamoro as chair under the banner of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and as regional governor of the ARMM, in a concurrent capacity as chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD). Records and his performance show that both as chair and as governor, he failed as a leader and as an executive. Leaders are chosen to perform and to produce results. Our Constitution declares that public office is a public trust. As such, nobody in government is indispensable.

Due to certain constitutional and legal technicalities, the SPCPD as a transitional mechanism for the implementation of autonomy was established instead of the Provisional Government stipulated in the Tripoli Agreement. Why was there a need for a transitional mechanism? Primarily, to allow the Philippine government to enact the amendatory law of the organic act of the autonomous region. The time frame stipulated in the Final Peace Agreement signed between the government and the MNLF in September 1996 was only two years. Congress, however, failed to enact an amendatory law even after 1998 during the Estrada Administration. Republic Act 9054 became law only in 2000. The ARMM elections were thus postponed thrice, automatically extending Misuari's term of office as governor thrice. But despite all the trust, the vast powers and opportunities given him, he failed to deliver or perform as expected of him.

As regional governor, his administration was characterized by absenteeism. Contrary to his declaration making consultation the cornerstone of his leadership, from the time he assumed office up till now, he has never conducted consultations with the four governors of the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. No wonder that even the four provinces indicated their intention on many occasions to secede from the ARMM before the plebiscite of Aug. 14, 2001.

Questionable congress

The so-called 5th Bangsamoro Congress held in Indanan, Sulu, where Misuari announced his readiness to return to the hills in his belief that the peace agreement is dead, is itself questionable. In any congress or convention, certain criteria exist for choosing delegates. Each area is given a certain number or quota equitably prorated. The question is, Who were invited to the congress, and under what criteria were they chosen as representatives of the Bangsamoro?

In the first place, the top brass of the MNLF is now represented by the Committee of the 15 Executive Council, a collective leadership which formally took over the MNLF. The matter of leadership of the MNLF is an internal matter for the true and bona fide officers and members of the movement. Persons who are not bona fide members cannot discredit the true members for doing what is right. It has come to the point where they must decide between being loyal to one man or to the sacred interest of their people. Certainly, as principled members of the MNLF, they decided in favor of the latter.

"We looked to him as the epitome of hope. We were wrong."

There was mention of alleged unification of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Misuari remnant faction. There were delegates from Maguindanao allegedly representing the MILF, but did they go there in an official capacity or in their personal capacity? As far as I know, the MILF, represented by its Vice Chair for Military Affairs Hadji Murad Ibrahim and the MNLF Executive Committee of the 15, had already forged a formal Covenant for Unity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia witnessed by no less than Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mahathir and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

That Covenant holds, and in no way will the MILF turn its back on that commitment. We must not forget that none of the 15 members of the MNLF ExCom had any falling out with MILF Chair Salamat Hashim. On the other hand, the MILF Chair and many right-thinking officers of the MNLF split up with Misuari over irreconcilable differences. Misuari strongly resisted positive reforms in the movement.

Taking cognizance of the significant leadership change in the MNLF as a means of improving the chances of autonomy, the Philippine government has shifted its recognition from Misuari to the ExCom. The Ministerial Committee of the Eight—including Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Senegal, Malaysia and Indonesia—has also done the same.

As a former comrade-in-arms of Misuari, I am deeply saddened by the way he handles himself as a leader of our people. We looked to him as the epitome of hope for the Bangsamoro, a redeemer and champion of our cause. But we were wrong.

It is in the best interest of Misuari to graciously accept the truth and reality of the present situation.

Leaders come and go. The only thing that is left behind are the footprints of our performance. All leaders must be accountable to their people. It is better for Misuari to accept that the time now calls for new faces and new blood, while we still have the opportunity to salvage whatever is left of the trust of our people.

Rep. Salapuddin was a former MNLF commander.

The heart of the MNLF

BY MAHENDRA ALIH MADJILON
Deputy Chair, Committee on Information, MNLF Central Committee

THE RECENT resolution of the so-called "Council of 15" is the sixth serious attempt to remove the founding father of the Front. In an 11-paragraph document they signed in Malate's Manor Hotel, they manifested their "withdrawal of support (from) Nur Misuari" as their leader. Among the reasons cited are "loss of trust, confidence, arrogance, dictatorial (acts), nepotism, can't be reached for consultation," etc.

Since the Moro National Liberation Front was founded in 1968, all three successive vice chairs of the Central Committee, and even chiefs of staff, plotted to wrest power from Misuari. Foreign-trained officers also tried, and also failed. To give two instances:

In the early 1970s, a group of field commanders held a general meeting in Indanan, Sulu, then the epicenter of the liberation struggle, and arrogated unto themselves the authority to forcibly change the national leadership of the revolutionary movement.

Most vociferous among them was a teacher-turned-revolutionary, who later on surrendered to the Marcos government. In league with seven other cohorts, he persuaded the assembly that "starting today Dr. Salih Loong will be the new chair." Dr. Loong belonged to batch 300 and worked at that time as a physician in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Angered by the self-serving imposition, Commander Alvarez Isnaji, then vice chair for military affairs of the Lupah Sug State Revolutionary Committee, cocked his FN Belgium-made rifle and roared: "If I hear one word that Ma-as is no longer the chair, something bloody will happen here." His heavily armed troops belonging to the State regular army, fingers on the triggers, were ready to fire.

One by one the long-haired, fatigue-clad freedom fighters, progeny of the Tausog "black teeth warriors," left. No final decision was taken. The meeting was adjourned.

That was the first tactless attempt to unseat Misuari, reverently addressed as "Ma-as," or Old Man, by his followers.

Ustaz Salamat Hashim's move to replace Misuari was the third attempt to rock the MNLF. Formerly the vice chair of the Central Committee, he proclaimed himself the supreme leader of the MNLF on Dec. 26, 1977 on the basis of a document called the "Instrument of Take-Over." Signed by "57 leading officers," mostly coming from central Mindanao, including Ronnie Malaguiok, a Top 90 cadre and chair of the Kutawato Revolutionary Committee, Ustaz Salamat declared that they had already taken over the mantle of leadership of the MNLF.

The pretensions to power were illusory, as they had not elicited the unqualified support of the top men in all levels of authorities. Misuari, enjoying the complete trust, confidence and loyalty of the majority of Central Committee members and their patrons abroad, the Islamic world, still called the shots. With no rational options left, and to distinguish themselves from erstwhile comrade-in-arms, Salamat's men began calling their group the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

This officially started in 1984, after they constituted their own Central Committee and held their own Congress.

With the breaking away of Ustaz Salamat Hashim, Commander Dimas Pundato, the chair of the Ranao Sur State Revolutionary Committee, was promoted to vice chair of the Central Committee. (After a few years, however, Gen. Pundato led a coterie of coup plotters against the leader.)

Now, this vicious squabbling for power in one of Asia's best-entrenched mass movements for freedom, justice, self-determination and development has once again come to the fore with the so-called Council of 15. As in previous attempts, the (interim) vice chair was involved, together with the foreign affairs committee chief, the secretary-general and two of his three deputies, the chief of the military intelligence service and other senior cadres.

In their meeting on Apr. 29, 2001, they issued a resolution usurping the powers, functions, duties and prerogatives of Central Committee Chair Nur Misuari. To them, they constitute the Central Committee.

As all MNLF soldiers and Gausbaogbog (mass-based supporters) know, however, eleven senior officers do not a Central Committee make.

To date, the real ideologue-members of the Central Committee, a hundred of them, are still intact and one in their solid support for Misuari's leadership. They had in fact strongly condemned the malevolent attempt of their former comrades to usurp the powers of the chairman.

In the recent past, the eight field commanders, the "Committee of 9," Salamat, Pundato, Alam and other agent-saboteurs had tried such a strategy, fomenting a internal coup d'etat. They did not succeed.

Misuari, the millennium's great guru of peacefare, has mastered the science of revolutionary survival. He is the heart of the MNLF.

Talking points

PAST is prologue, or so we have been taught. Both Deputy Speaker Salapuddin and Mr. Madjilon argue from what has come before, but they end up with conclusions that are islands apart. For Salapuddin, the past is performance. For Madjilon, the path is myth.

The former MNLF commander and now third-term legislator appeals to the record as the law might understand it. He writes of Misuari: "Records and his performance show that both as chair and as governor, he failed as a leader and as an executive. Leaders are chosen to perform and to produce results." No results, therefore no reelection or reappointment.

He focuses on the main charges against the man known as "Ma-as," and proceeds to clinch the argument with a single, telling example: "Contrary to his declaration making consultation the cornerstone of his leadership, from the time he assumed office up till now, he has never conducted consultations with the four governors of the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi."

Madjilon, on the other hand, appeals to the record as epic poetry of some sort. He repairs to the past to show the previous attempts to unseat Misuari—not as ARMM governor, however, but as chair of the MNLF. The essential argument is the survivor's fate: the fact that "Ma-as" has survived means he is destined to survive. (In the original, Madjilon actually recounts all six attempts, but we had space for only three.) "Now, this vicious squabbling for power in one of Asia's best-entrenched mass movements for freedom, justice, self-determination and development has once again come to the fore with the so-called Council of 15." As in the past (betrayal by those closest to him), so in the future (triumph of the "heart," the "founding father of the Front").

It is worth noting the difference in the way the writers process the question of legitimacy. For Madjilon, the Council of 15 is invalidated by its lack of "real ideologue-members." For Salapuddin, the 5th Bangsamoro congress is questionable because of dubious criteria for the selection of delegates. "The question is, Who were invited to the congress, and under what criteria were they chosen as representatives of the Bangsamoro?"

One speaks from the context of a (still) revolutionary movement, the other from the halls of Congress and Robert's Rules of Order.—*J. Nery*

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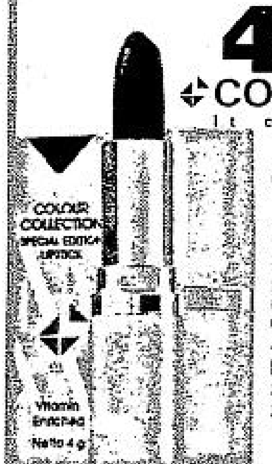

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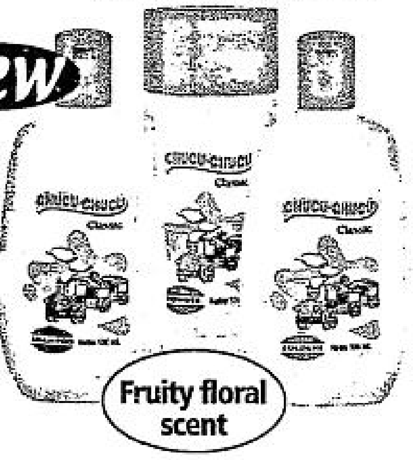

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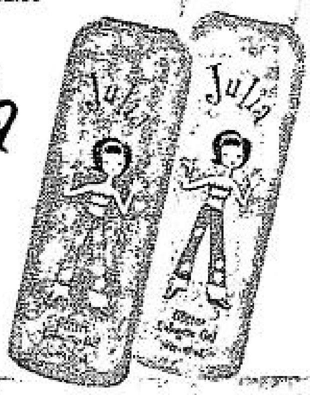

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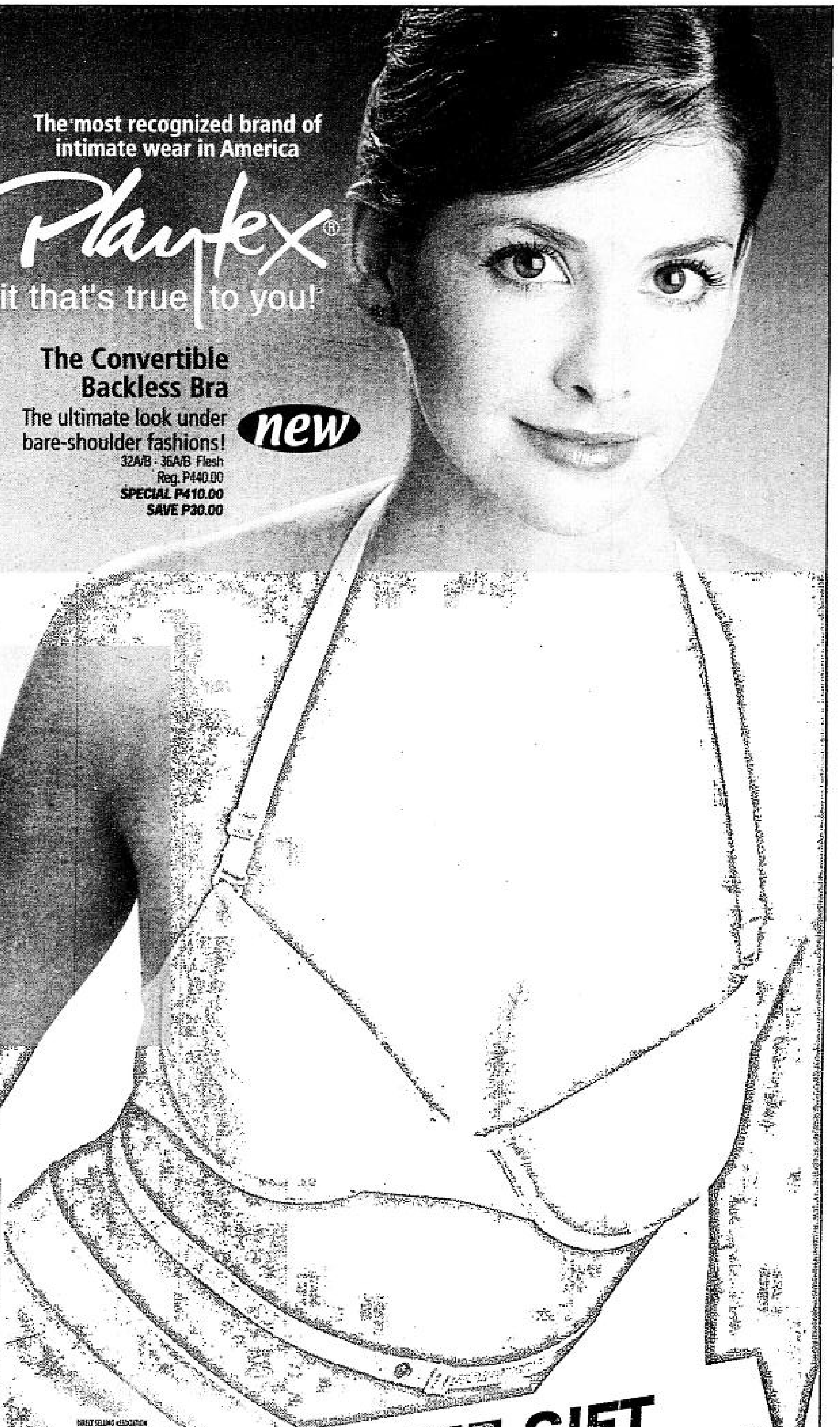

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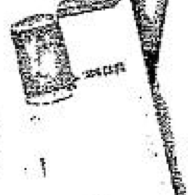

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Bin Laden says he has nuke bombs

ISLAMABAD—Accused terrorist leader Osama bin Laden has nuclear and chemical weapons and is willing to use them against the United States, he said in an interview released Saturday.

"A great war of Islamic history" is being fought in Afghanistan, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington told a Pakistani newspaper editor before warning that all Americans are targets.

"I wish to declare that if America used chemical or nuclear weapons against us then we may retort with chemical and nuclear weapons," the Dawn newspaper quoted Bin Laden as saying in an interview conducted this week near Kabul.

"We have the weapons as a deterrent," he added.

But Bin Laden refused to give details of his claimed arsenal. When asked where he got the weapons from, he responded: "Go to the next question."

The White House declined Friday to directly respond to Bin Laden's latest comments but said US officials view such a threat "seriously."

"We've said that we've suspected all along that this organization has been trying to acquire chemical, biological or nuclear weapons," said White House spokesperson Ken Lisaius. "We take these past statements seriously and we will do everything we can to prevent their acquisition of these materials."

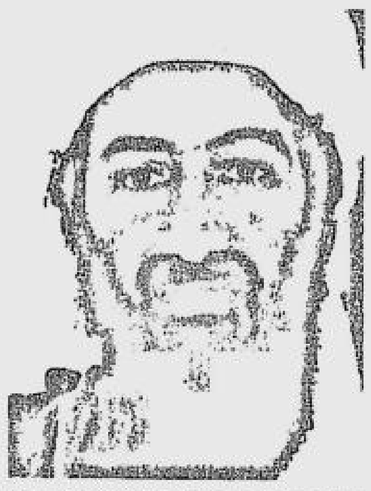
Bin Laden again justified the Sept. 11 attacks in the interview with Hamid Mir, editor of the Ausaf Urdu-language daily.

The interview, the first with Bin Laden since the Oct. 7 launch of the US bombing campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaida, was also published by Dawn, Pakistan's oldest English-language newspaper.

Mir is writing a book on Bin Laden and said he has interviewed him in the past. He said he was taken blindfolded in a jeep from Kabul on Nov. 7 to a place, which was cold and from where he could hear anti-aircraft fire.

Dawn published a picture of Mir with Bin Laden, who was wearing a military camouflage jacket and had an AK-47 Kalashnikov rifle by his side, but there was no way of determining the exact date of the picture. *AFP*

Reporter: Bin Laden in high spirits



SAUDI dissident Osama bin Laden

ISLAMABAD—He's in high spirits, speaking confidently and laughing readily. Osama bin Laden is a man at ease even though he feels the Americans will eventually kill him, his Pakistani interviewer said Saturday.

Journalist Hamid Mir ratcheted up the world's jitters Saturday with an exclusive interview with Bin Laden in which the suspected terrorist mastermind said he had nuclear and chemical weapons and was ready to use them.

Mir, who published the interview in Pakistan's English-language newspaper Dawn, says he met with Bin Laden in 1997 and 1998. When he saw the shadowy Saudi millionaire this time in Afghanistan, he found him greatly changed.

"Previously he was very softspoken," the 36-year-old Mir said. "But now he speaks like an experienced orator. He is very hard-hitting. He was in high spirits. He's very healthy and he laughs a lot.

"He's very critical about the government of Pakistan. Previously he was not so critical about Pakistan. So there is a big change in that man. He's more confident," said Mir, editor of the Urdu-language newspaper Ausaf.

The world's most hunted man since the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, Bin Laden feels certain the Americans will kill him sooner or later, according to Mir, who met him at a secret location outside Kabul.

"He told me, 'I am ready to die.' He said, 'I know that they can bomb this place also. They are not aware that I am present here. But they are dropping bombs blindly everywhere. So I may get killed even with you.'"

"My cause will continue after my death," he quoted Bin Laden as saying. "They think they will solve this problem by killing me. It's not easy to solve this problem. This war has been spread all over the world."

Bin Laden, who is said to live constantly on the move to avoid capture and reportedly often shuttles from cave to cave, expressed no regret for his difficult circumstances.

"I cannot gain anything by adopting this way of life," Mir quoted him as saying. "I am fighting because they are killing us. We are the victims and they are the aggressors so we have no other option but to fight back."

The interview conducted Thursday was Bin Laden's first since the kamikaze assaults on New York and Washington. But Mir said the terror suspect planned to invite journalists to Kabul for a press conference in the coming weeks.

The tortured logistics of organizing Mir's session with Bin Laden were typical of the clandestine, ultra-security-conscious world surrounding the terror suspect.

The intense, mustachioed Mir, who contributes regularly to Dawn, was on a one-day trip to the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad when he mentioned to commanders of the ruling Taliban militia his desire to see Bin Laden.

He drove to Kabul on Tuesday and checked into a small hotel. The next day, an Arab man came to pick him up and he spent the entire day shuttled from one place to another in a jeep.

"In the night they took me out of Kabul to some unknown place where they changed the jeep. I was blindfolded and I was rolled in a blanket and they put me on the back seat of the jeep.

"After five hours, early in the morning of the eighth of November, I arrived at a place where he (Bin Laden) appeared," Mir said.

He could not say where he was, offering only that "the place was much colder than Kabul. I think that maybe it was some area where snow was."

Mir was ushered into a small, unfurnished room with blankets covering the walls. Outside, the sounds of anti-aircraft guns echoed through the morning.

He said Bin Laden arrived with his deputy Ayman al-Zawihiri and sat down on a traditional Afghan gadda, or cushion, for the interview.

When the article appeared Saturday in the Dawn, Pakistan's largest English-language daily with a circulation of 196,000, it made Mir an instant celebrity. Media lined up at his home on a quiet street here for interviews. *AFP*

INDONESIAN women pray at the Istiqlal, one of the large mosques in Asia, in Jakarta Nov. 9 as US continues attacks on Afghanistan. Indonesia President Megawati Sukarnoputri has unsuccessfully called on the US to suspend the military campaign during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

AFP

N. Alliance takes vital Mazar-e-Sharif, province

JABAL-US-SARAJ/WASHINGTON—Afghanistan's Northern Alliance captured the strategic city of Mazar-e-Sharif and a province to the south, their first major victory since a US-led military campaign began 35 days ago.

And on another front, a US B-52 carpet-bombed Taliban positions north of the capital Kabul early on Saturday, a Reuters television cameraman said.

With the noose tightening around the Taliban forces in northern Afghanistan, their "guest" and object of the military campaign, Osama bin Laden, made the startling claim that he had nuclear weapons.

Taliban Defense Minister Obaidullah Akhund said on Saturday the militia had lost Mazar-e-Sharif to the Northern Alliance. The ancient city straddles key supply routes between Uzbekistan and the Afghan capital Kabul to the south as well as the highway to Herat, a major city near the border with Iran.

"Yes, Mazar has gone," Akhund said in a brief interview. "The city and its airport are with the opposition."

The Northern Alliance, whose president Burhanuddin Rabbani holds the Afghan seat in the United Nations, said it had also taken Sar-i-Pol province from the Taliban.

It took just an hour and a half to take Mazar-e-Sharif and rout the Taliban on Friday evening after an assault backed by intense US bombing, said alliance General Abdul Rashid Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek warlord who once ran the city as his fiefdom.

The mainly ethnic Pashtun Taliban fighters must now flee as fast as they can to their powerbases in the south, through hostile territory populated by enemy tribes and under skies buzzing with US jets that can see in day and by night.

Paul Beaver, an independent defense analyst in Britain, described the capture as a major military coup for US forces because its airports give them a prime forward operating base.

"This is good politically and propaganda-wise but it is also good militarily, because they can exploit the potential of the airport there," he said. *Reuters*

3 'anthrax letters' likely had same author

WASHINGTON—The three anthrax-laced letters sent to US Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and two media organizations were likely written and sent by the same person, the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced Friday.

"It is highly probable, bordering on certainty, that all three letters were authored by the same person," the FBI said in a statement.

Investigators have drawn up a linguistic and behavioral assessment of the suspect and the writings, hoping that by releasing some details about the letter, a citizen might come forward with information about the culprit.

"There'll be broader publicity of those components—or these characteristics—for people to consider when they might evaluate suspicions they have," Attorney General John Ashcroft said Friday.

"We need the help of Americans to help us find the individual who's involved here," he told CNN's "Larry King Live," according to an advance transcript of the interview to be broadcast later Friday.

But the US attorney general admitted federal investigators were still uncertain of the origin of the deadly bacteria, and did not yet know if the letters originated from a domestic or foreign source.

"Anytime anybody sends anthrax to anyone, I consider it a terrorist act. And we're not sure. We don't have a level of confidence that makes certain the fact that these are domestic," he said.

The FBI statement said the letters sent to NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw and to the New York Post were "identical copies."

The third letter, to Daschle, contained a slightly different message and anthrax that was "much more refined, more potent" and more easily dispersed than that in the other letters. *AFP*

Accident hits Japan nuke plant

TOKYO—A nuclear reactor in central Japan leaked radioactive water in the second accident at the power plant in three days, the reactor operator said Saturday.

During an inspection on Friday, coolant water was found spilling directly from a system storing equipment to operate rods that control the nuclear reactor's output at the power plant in Hamaoka, 180 km southwest of Tokyo.

On Wednesday, a steel pipe at the reactor cracked and leaked radioactive steam in a pressure-injection system.

"We are still trying to locate the exact point from where coolant water is dripping," said Kenji Nakashima, a spokesperson for the plant operated by Chubu Electric Power Co.

It was the second radioactive water spill at the 540,000-kilowatt reactor, with the first accident occurring in 1988, he added.

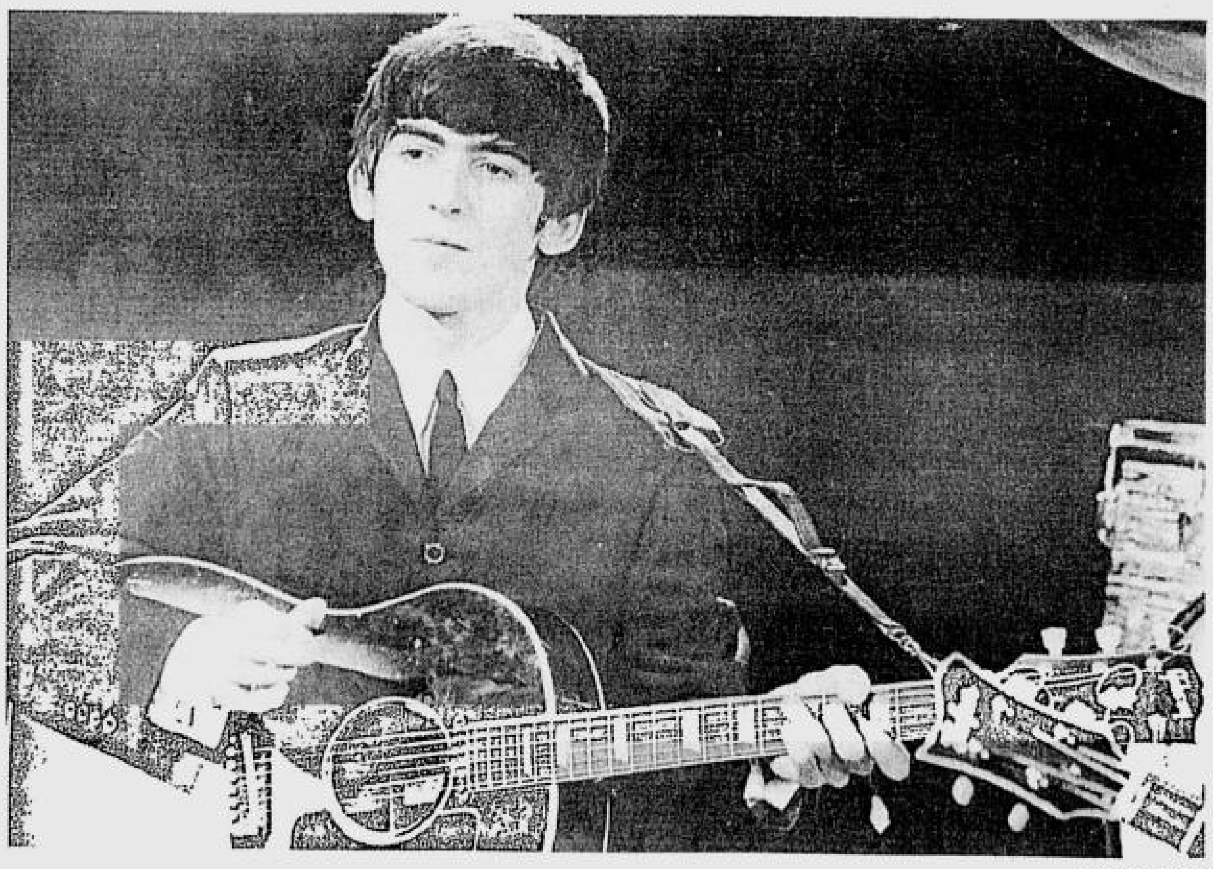
"It is not that water spills never occur in the reactor but the accident is taken seriously because it immediately followed the rupture of the pipe," Nakashima said.

Hamaoka said the radioactive water was leaking at a rate of 60 milliliters an hour but there was no fear of the leakage affecting the environment outside the plant.

Radioactivity from the leakage was estimated at about 323 becquerels per cubic centimeter, almost the same level as the coolant water used in the reactor, he said.

The reactor was manually shut down after Wednesday's steam leakage and none of the radioactive material had escaped from the facility, the power company said.

The pipe carried steam from the reactor's pressure injection system to a heat exchanger. The system is geared to cool the reactor core in the event the regular cooling system shuts down. *AFP*



GETTY IMAGES

FORMER Beatles guitarist and singer George Harrison, now 58, performs Dec. 3, 1963 during a concert.

Ex-Beatle treated for cancer

NEW YORK—Former Beatle George Harrison is undergoing "pioneer" surgery for brain cancer at Staten Island University Hospital in New York, the Daily News reported Friday.

The report said Harrison, 58, was admitted earlier this month and was receiving treatment from Gil Lederman, a "pioneer" of fractionated sterotactic radiosurgery, a high-precision technique that uses heavy doses of radiation to attack tumors.

The New York Post meanwhile said the ex-Beatle had been released from the hospital and would continue receiving treatment as an outpatient.

The hospital refused to confirm or deny that Harrison was a patient there, telling AFP: "Officially, we have no statement."

Elizabeth Freund, a public relations professional who has worked with the former Beatle in the past, said rumors that he had died were false. "I have heard that he is still with us," she said.

In July, Harrison denied reports that he was losing his fight against cancer, insisting he was "feeling very well."

Harrison had disclosed that he had undergone a course of radiotherapy at a hospital in Switzerland and told his fans not to worry.

"I am feeling fine and I am really sorry for the unnecessary worry that has been caused" by press reports, a statement from his solicitor said at the time. "Please do not worry."

Harrison, the youngest of the three surviving Beatles at age 59, wrote the hit songs "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" and "Here Comes the Sun" as a Beatle, then launched a solo career and produced the best-selling album "All Things Must Pass" including the smash hit "My Sweet Lord."

Harrison has had a turbulent recent few years, surviving health scares and an attempt on his life.

Having smoked throughout his youth and Beatles career, he gave up some years ago, only to take up the habit again before finally quitting in 1997. *AFP*

UN ASSEMBLY

Leaders of world tackle new agenda

UNITED NATIONS—Under unprecedented security in a city shaken by terror, leaders of the world's nations gather for the first time since Sept. 11 on Saturday to tackle a radically changed global agenda dominated by the multifaceted war on terrorism.

"When a family is under attack, it is in their common house that its members gather, to decide what to do," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in his prepared speech to the General Assembly, which was released Friday night.

US President George W. Bush said earlier this week that he will praise nations that have joined the international coalition to fight terrorism in his first speech to the General Assembly and deliver the message that now "it is time for action."

Bush is among more than 40 world leaders who will address the assembly's annual "general debate." The session was delayed for the first time in the United Nation's 56-year history because of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. About 50 world leaders, including Bush, had been expected at the high-level gathering originally scheduled to start on Sept. 24.

The expected appearance by presidents, prime ministers, and over 100 foreign ministers at the rescheduled gabfest, which ends Nov. 16, is seen by diplomats as an important sign of support for the United Nations and its key role in addressing terrorism.

The high-level attendance is especially significant since the United Nations and Annan have been condemned by Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings and previous terrorist attacks aimed at US. targets.

In a videotaped statement broadcast last Saturday on Al-Jazeera television, Bin Laden accused the United Nations of siding with the United States and called the secretary-general a "criminal."

The 39-story UN headquarters building overlooking Manhattan's East River was reported to be a terrorist target following the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. The New York landmark was evacuated after the Sept. 11 attacks, and again the following day, and mail delivery has been halted because of the anthrax threat.

An eight-block stretch of First Avenue, outside the UN complex, has been barred to all traffic since Sept. 11 by sand-filled sanitation department trucks. Inside UN headquarters, new metal detectors have been installed, and the media and most UN staff have been barred from the floor where the General Assembly will meet.

These measures are more stringent than the security for last year's UN Millennium Summit, the largest gathering of world leaders in history which was attended by over 150 presidents, prime ministers and monarchs.

UN Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Kieran Prendergast said there was a need for unprecedented security following the attacks on the United States.

"The world has changed," he said. "The UN has become part of the enemy as far as BLaden is concerned. We have lots of heads of states. We have lots and lots more foreign ministers. The secretary general has personally been named as an enemy."

"We have to be very, very careful. These are people who plan things well, who plan things meticulously," Prendergast said in an interview. *AP*

UN's climate treaty is completed–at a price

By Richard Ingham

MARRAKESH, Morocco—A landmark UN treaty to combat looming climate change was completed here Saturday after a four-year saga of political storms and national demands that threatened it right up to the last minute.

Exhausted but relieved and smiling, environment ministers from around the world approved a raft of rules and procedures that will turn the United Nations Kyoto Protocol from a statement of goals into a ratifiable treaty.

If Kyoto enters international law, it will mark the first global steps in a long battle to tackle greenhouse gases, a peril to rich and poor nations alike and, some fear, a threat even to Man's survival as a viable species.

But the deal was only achieved thanks to painful concessions by the European Union (EU) that can only further weaken Kyoto after the US, the biggest single culprit for global warming, walked out in March.

Main thing

"The main thing is that we have saved the Kyoto Protocol," said a spokesperson for Belgium, the current president of the EU, which championed Kyoto's cause.

Environmentalists reacted bitterly to the compromises won by Australia, Canada, Japan and Russia, which they characterized as a "Gang of Four" driven by national greed.

Kyoto is an offshoot of the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Signed in 1997, it requires industrialized countries to cut emissions of carbon-based gases by 5.2 percent by 2008-2012 compared with their 1990 levels. Greenhouse gases are carbon substances that are mainly the unwanted by-product of burning oil, gas and coal.

Over the past century, so many billion tons of these gases have been released as a result of industrialization that the Earth's atmosphere is gradually warming, driving the climate system toward potentially calamitous change, scientists say.

The compromise gave enormous concessions on forestry demanded by Russia.

Forests and agricultural land are called "carbon sinks" because they absorb greenhouse gas pollution through photosynthesis. They thus become an asset, which can be partially offset against national targets of pollution cuts.

Tactical alliance

A tactical alliance of four countries—Australia, Canada, Japan and Russia—demanded huge allocations of "sinks" at talks in Bonn in July that saved Kyoto from collapse.

Their goal, as in Japan's case, was to ease the cost of meeting the Kyoto targets or, as in Russia's case, to sell lots of emissions entitlements on the world's future carbon market.

In Bonn, Russia had agreed to 17.6 million carbon tons per year in "sinks," but then came back for more. The Marrakesh deal would meet its demands for 33 million tons per year.

Environmentalists had angrily opposed this, warning that polluting countries could simply buy cheap Russian carbon quotas to meet their targets rather than reduce their greenhouse gases.

Russia has huge emissions quotas to sell because the collapse of the Soviet economy and its gradual conversion to cleaner technology means it produces far less carbon dioxide than in 1990.

The other part of the deal centered on criteria allowing access to Kyoto's so-called flexibility mechanisms.

These are innovations that would harness market forces to help the industrialized world reach its target of cutting greenhouse-gas pollution with less economic pain.

The conference of environment ministers had been due to end late Friday.

But it spilled over into the early hours of Saturday, as the four-nation Umbrella Group refused to approve a compromise on the two sticking points.

Big polluters

Kyoto must be ratified by a sufficient number of industrialized countries in order to enter into force, a process that in itself has potential pitfalls. Now that the US has bolted, Kyoto needs the support of all the other big polluters, otherwise it will never take effect.

Russia announced clearly on Saturday that it would ratify, but Japan, which has been lukewarm about Kyoto ever since the American pullout, notably refused to mention the R-word, saying only it had joined a "consensus" for action.

Many climate experts are pessimistic that the treaty will be able to make headway against global warming without the United States, which accounts for a quarter of all greenhouse gas pollution.

President George W. Bush ditched Kyoto in March, contending it was "fundamentally flawed" and unfair for the US economy.

Environmentalists, while dismayed by the concessions made to keep Kyoto afloat, have staked their hopes on giving the treaty a strong and durable design. *AFP*

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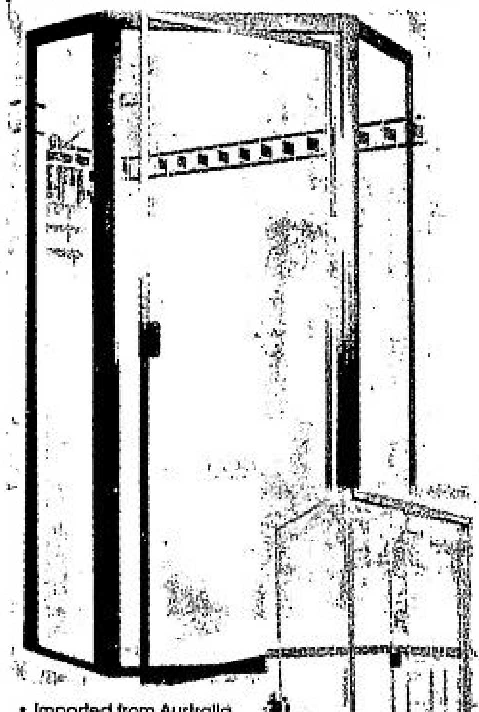

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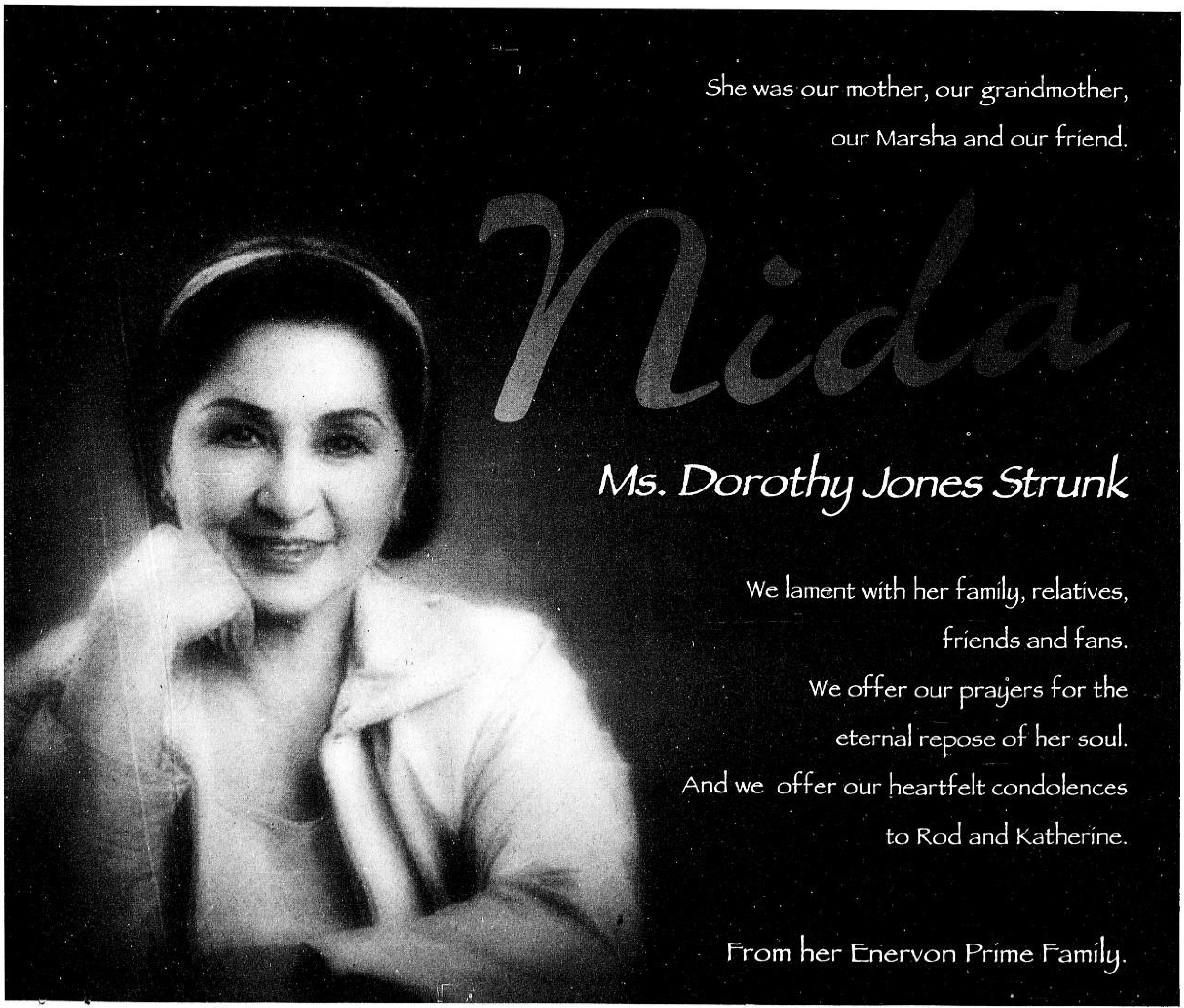

She was our mother, our grandmother,
our Marsha and our friend.

Nida

Ms. Dorothy Jones Strunk

We lament with her family, relatives,
friends and fans.
We offer our prayers for the
eternal repose of her soul.
And we offer our heartfelt condolences
to Rod and Katherine.

From her Enervon Prime Family.

Israeli troops snatch 12 Palestinians

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops snatched 12 Palestinians in an overnight raid in the West Bank, maintaining the tension in the occupied territories as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat prepared to address the United Nations General Assembly.

Arafat heads for New York Saturday to highlight the "dangerous situation resulting from the Israeli military escalation despite international efforts . . . to rescue the peace process," top adviser Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

But Jordan's King Abdullah II, interviewed by the Times of London, offered a glimmer of hope, saying he was seeking an Arab promise to offer a collective guarantee of Israel's security in return for setting up a Palestinian state.

In the meantime, Israel was taking no chances with its security.

The Army arrested 12 Palestinian militants "suspected of involvement in terrorist activities" in a raid into autonomous Palestinian territory, a military statement said Saturday.

They also destroyed the house of a gunman who killed three Israelis in Afula, northern Israel, on Oct. 4, it said.

An Israeli unit backed by armor entered the village of Araqa, west of Jenin, in pursuit of Palestinians who shot dead an Israeli woman on Friday.

The Army said the troops later withdrew into Israeli-held territory.

Hadassah Botbul was found dead in her overturned car after being hit in the back by a burst of automatic weapon fire as she drove past the Palestinian self-rule community of Yabed, near Araqa.

An organization linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, the Popular Army Front—Brigades of Return, claimed responsibility for the killing.

But while the tit-for-tat round of killings and Israeli reprisal raids continued, King Abdullah was eyeing prospects for peace.

He told The Times a deal on Israeli security was already being discussed by the main international players, including the United States, Russia, the European Union, the United Nations, Egypt and Jordan.

He said a long-term strategy of this nature would underpin a new initiative to be launched soon by US President George W. Bush's administration. *AFP*

Brazilians convicted for burning Indian

BRASILIA, Brazil—Four Brazilians who set ablaze and killed an Indian tribesman were convicted early on Saturday of third-degree murder and sentenced to 14 years in prison in a widely watched trial charged with race and class issues.

A seven-member jury opted for the severest of possible verdicts against the defendants, who in April 1997 poured alcohol fuel on a sleeping Galdino Jesus dos Santos and set him on fire. The crime that sparked national outrage and highlighted the vulnerability of Brazil's Indians.

The verdict, read to a crammed, bleary-eyed courtroom, drew cheers from dozens of Indians of Santos' Pataxo tribe from northeastern Brazil whose headdresses, grass skirts and war paint stood out in the crowd.

"This is a victory," said a bare-chested Wilson Jesus da Souza, Santos' nephew. "We thank the jury for judging this in the right way, for judging the accused as they deserved."

But across the aisle from the Indians, relatives of the middle- to upper-class defendants sobbed loudly while defense lawyers vowed to appeal, saying the accused had been picked as "scapegoats" to make a point on Indian rights and impunity.

The case pitted one of Brazil's poor, long-suffering minorities against the rich and influential in a country where wealth has often given criminals an escape route from justice. One of the accused is the son of a Brasilia district judge.

The jury ruled 5-2 that the four then-teenagers acted with intent to kill and it unanimously qualified the murder as cruel, futile and involving a defenseless victim. The defense had argued that the defendants, who had been joy-riding after a night on the town, set Santos ablaze in an adolescent prank that went wrong.

Santos had been sleeping at a bus stop in Brazil's capital after being locked out of his hostel. He died from burns on 95 percent of his body less than 24 hours after the crime. *Reuters*

AFP

CAMBODIAN INDEPENDENCE
A guard of honor unveils the Cambodian flag during the Independence Day ceremony in Phnom Penh, Nov. 9, to mark the country's 48 years of independence from French rule.

Baby rape wakens S. Africa to rampant child abuse

JOHANNESBURG—The gang-rape of a nine-month-old baby has finally jolted South Africans into acknowledging everyday sexual violence against children, and to demand why it is so widespread.

One factor is a widespread myth that sex with a virgin will cure you of AIDS: some 4.7 million South Africans, or one in nine, were HIV-positive at the end of 2000, and the deadly disease is spreading at a rate of about 1,500 new infections daily.

"It is an ignorant, unfounded and perverse belief," said Lulu Xingwana, a member of parliament for the ruling African National Congress.

The violent legacy of apartheid is seen as another reason.

"The terrible impact of living in a country at war with itself during apartheid . . . is the fundamental basis of this. When you grow up with violence, you learn to be violent," said Lynne Cawood, a director of the Childline support group.

Five infants between the ages of one and five are known to have been raped since the arrest last week of six men charged with raping and sodomising baby "Tshepang."

That provoked a national outcry, with more than 1,000 demonstrators protesting when the suspects, aged between 22 and 66, made a preliminary appearance in a court in the central town of Kimberley.

Newspapers and radio stations have taken up the case, and activists are demanding action.

"Tshepang," a nickname meaning "Have Hope," bestowed to protect her privacy, has been tested for the HIV virus and is in hospital in Kimberley. Doctors say she is recovering physically, but is likely to have long-term, psychological trauma.

Police reports show that 58 children are victims every day of rape or sexual attacks, but "the majority of children find it very difficult to report rape and the number may be much higher," Cawood said.

The perpetrators "come from all walks of life; they are poor and rich, they are black and white, they come from all professions," said Herman Conradie of the University of South Africa in Pretoria.

"They are people who usually cannot control their aggression . . . they usually say it's a once-off situation . . . they use alcohol for an excuse.

"The perpetrators are usually family members," Conradie said. *AFP*

Australia's Howard reelected

SYDNEY—John Howard did it again on Saturday when he defied his critics to win a third term as Australian prime minister.

Scorned by the intellectual establishment ever since he entered politics in 1974 and rebuffed by his own Liberal Party and the Australian voters three times in the 1980s, this dogged son of a garage owner from Sydney's unfashionable western suburbs refused to give up.

He is largely loathed by what he calls "the elites," despised by the left and deeply distrusted by Aboriginals and their supporters.

But nobody ever doubted the courage, the integrity or the political astuteness of this 62-year-old former Sydney solicitor first elected to parliament as a Liberal MP in 1974.

Nor did they question his stubborn, terrier-like tenacity in the face of adversity, his passionate commitment to a conservative social agenda nor his unwavering support for policies like the reform of Australia's taxation system.

His major achievements—gun control, introduction of a consumption tax and pacifying East Timor—were undertaken at huge risk to his own future and will remain forever etched into the Australian psyche.

But his opponents accuse him of being too ordinary, too stubborn, much too conservative, and of lacking charisma and vision.

The "elites"—the well-educated, affluent minority from leafy, middle-class suburbia—overwhelmingly supported the move for a republic during Australia's 1999 constitutional referendum.

They accused him of sabotaging the case for cutting ties with the British monarchy by using his office to exploit republican divisions when he led the monarchist cause, and they will never forgive him for that.

They also accused him of encouraging racist attitudes, which have crept back into parts of Australian society, and of "playing the race card."

This began in 1988 when Howard talked of restricting Asian immigration, and was followed by his initial reluctance to repudiate the policies of right-wing political leader Pauline Hanson in 1996/7.

It continued with his refusal to apologize to the so-called "stolen generations" of Aborigines separated from their parents by government policy up to the 1970s. *AFP*

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'NANANG' AFTERMATH

Lahar destroys town's water pipes

DARAGA, Albay—Some 5,300 households in 17 barangays in this town were rendered waterless after lahar flows triggered by typhoon "Nanang" destroyed the vital pipelines of the Daraga Water District in Barangay Budiao at the slope of Mayon Volcano on Wednesday night.

Daraga Water District general manager Beda Lorena said some 20 meters of their major pipes from the Budiao reservoir were damaged and were covered with three-meter deep lahar.

"More than 90 percent of the whole consumers of DAWD have been suffering from lack of water since Wednesday and we are rushing the pipes' rehabilitation, which could take us two more days," he said yesterday.

Lorena said the DAWD does not depend on the assistance of the Department of Public Works and Highways and has instead opted to hire heavy excavation equipment from private contractors to avoid much delay.

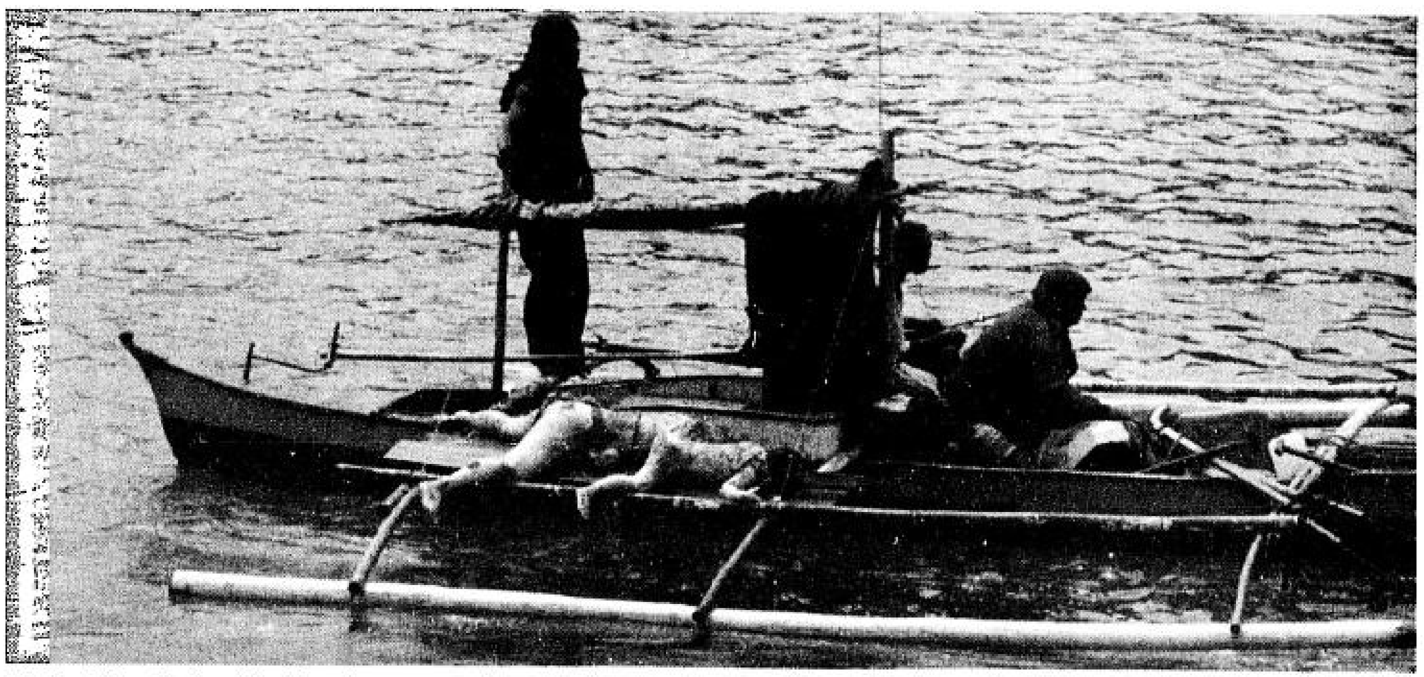
The pipelines affected are those located in the middle of rice farms, which were also destroyed by floods.

DPWH officials claimed they were conducting dredging operations at the area but Lorena admitted that no such efforts could guarantee that their pipelines would be free from lahar during calamities and heavy downpour.

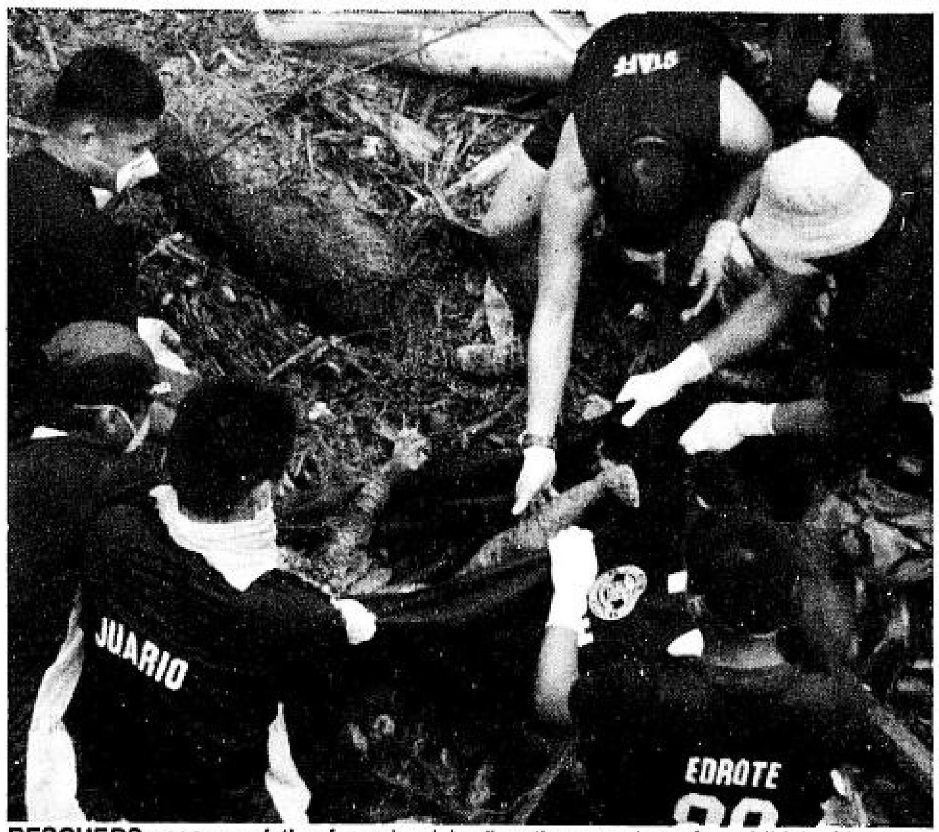
"This is the reason we are constructing new pumping stations outside Mayon Volcano. But we would maintain our Mayon sources. We cannot exchange the quality and the quantity of water of these sources," he said.

The DAWD is about to complete the construction of a pumping station at Barangay Salvacion, which will serve as a standby water supply capable of satisfying the needs of some 3,000 households.

"It can produce 30 liters per second. Another reservoir to be built would be at Barangay Anislag, near the relocation site of Mayon residents from the villages within the six-kilometer permanent danger zone. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



TWO of the 12 dead bodies of a man and a child floating near the shore of Surigao were recovered by fishermen and were brought back to Mahinog, Camiguin, where they were turned over to their relatives. *(See stories on page 2.)*



RESCUERS recover of the four dead bodies the remains of a child in Mahinog, Camiguin.

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE STENCH of dead bodies is unbearable but these residents of Camiguin would rather cover their noses than miss the chance of witnessing the recovery of dead bodies of fishermen from the shores of Surigao.

K-9 dog shot dead in child's defense

BY ODON S. BANDIOLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—Darwin chased a nine-year old child at the beach line of the island-resort of Boracay, intending to inflict harm on the hapless child when a security guard intervened.

Darwin then shifted his attention to the security guard and, instead of attacking the child, faced the blue guard ready to battle.

Sensing the danger to his life, the security guard drew his service firearm and fired. Darwin died on the spot with a lone gunshot wound in the body.

The victim was a dog. But Darwin was not an ordinary dog.

He is the K-9 dog brought to the island by police authorities since the kidnapping of tourists at the Dos Palmas Resort in El Nido, Palawan, by the Abu Sayaff.

Darwin, which was under the custody of the Philippine National Police through its Boracay Police Assistance Center, was trained to sniff out illegal drugs and to detect bombs and other forms of explosives.

When Darwin was still a puppy, he was reportedly worth P10,000. He is now worth P1 million, the police said.

The circumstances surrounding Darwin's death was contained in a spot report that the Boracay police transmitted to the provincial police headquarters in Kalibo on Friday, a day after Darwin's untimely death.

Darwin's "slayer" was Lory Gado, a security guard of the JVG Security Agency owned by Joel Gelito, the village chief of Manocmanoc, one of the barangays in Boracay Island.

Last Thursday, Darwin was able to free himself from his leash at the BPAC headquarters. He was later seen at the white beach of the island.

It was there where he saw the child, a son of a native of the island, and gave chase, until Gado tried to intervene.

Gado had cried self-defense but he was disarmed nonetheless by the Boracay police, pending "further investigation," according to the spot report.

Darwin, meanwhile, was given an appropriate burial in the island by his police handlers, the report added.

Same stories remain 5 years after Marinduque mine spill

BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BOAC, Marinduque—More than five years since the worst mining disaster hit this island some 165 kilometers southeast of Manila, residents here continue to live in fear.

A report dated June 14, 2001 by Klohn Crippen, an independent Canadian engineering company contracted by Placer Dome Inc. (PDI), said "millions of cubic meters of acidic water could burst through the walls of the same mine pit involved in the 1996 disaster."

Placer Dome Inc. is the Canadian international mining firm that used to own shares in the Marcopper Mining Corp., which operates in the island. On March 24, 1996, millions of cubic meters of toxic mine tailings escaped from a drainage tunnel at the mine site and spilled into the Boac and Makulapnit rivers.

Report

Citing the Crippen report, Rep. Edmundo Reyes, the island's lone representative, in a recent privilege speech in Congress has put to task the government for failing to address the present critical situation in Marinduque, which was caused by the disaster.

Reyes specifically referred to the delicate condition of Tapian Pit Elevation 310 Tunnel.

A position paper presented by the provincial council during a hearing called by the House Committee on Ecology on Oct. 9, also pointed to the Maguila-guila Siltation Dam, situated at the mouth of the Mogpog River, to be in an "emergency condition."

Mogpog Mayor Jonathan Garcia, revealed that the dam has experienced a major breach on December 1993, after a strong typhoon hit the island. The burst dam sent a rampaging flow of waste and water that flooded several villages along its path, causing million-peso losses in farm products and tremendous damage to the river ecosystem.

Monsignor Senen Malapad, head of the Catholic Church's Social Action Center and the Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns, also expressed fear for the critical condition of the dam.

"Its walls could explode and crack open, leaving everything in its path again at the mercy of nature," the priest said.

The council also pointed out that the people of Sta. Cruz are already suffering the consequences of dumping similar tailings in Calancan Bay during the previous years.

A government medical team that conducted an observation on the health and environmental situation in Sta. Cruz and Mogpog in 1999 found that 70 of 82 children in Sta. Cruz had high levels of lead up to 12.93 parts per billion (ppb). This is above the safe level of 10 ppb. One of 18 adults also had higher than the safe level reading.

The team also found that of 10 sites sampled, high levels of toxic lead and cadmium were found in the water of Calancan Bay.

The air in the atmosphere surrounding Barangay Botilao and nearby areas in Sta. Cruz was also found to contain toxic metals when the medical team came.

Clean up

The traces of heavy metal components remain in the air because of the toxic waste in the water.

The report said some 200 million tons of mine waste covers 80 sq. km. of the bottom of the bay and there is a causeway of exposed tailings jutting five kilometers into the center of the bay.

Those who contacted pollution-related illnesses complained of spending a fortune during their hospitalization in Manila when the medical group diagnosed them to be infected with various toxic waste related illnesses.

The residents preferred to let the specialists come to Marinduque but the local government found the funding requirement too high.

In a letter sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo, groups led by the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement-Marinduque chapter, appealed for the full payment of the compensation for damages to affected families and the immediate cleanup and rehabilitation of the Boac river system but not through "submarine tailings disposal."

Dr. Catherine Coumans, a Canadian researcher who conducted an extensive study on the tragedy two years after the mine spill, said "submarine tailings disposal" is not allowed in Canada, the country of origin of PDI.

PRRM also called for the complete rehabilitation of affected communities and environments and the permanent closure of the mine operation and conversion of the site into an economic employment area.

Remedial work

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez has ordered the officials of Marcopper and Placer Dome Inc. and Placer Dome Technical Services, in a letter dated Oct. 11, to proceed with the remedial work on the pit and the siltation dam and to implement a "care and maintenance" program for upper and lower Makulapnit and Boac river dams.

Alvarez has acknowledged the "imminent danger" to life and property posed by the structures. He warned the firms that, "should an untoward incident happen from failure to implement the directive, they will be criminally charged on violation of several applicable existing statutes.

Along the bank of Boac River still lie big rusted pipes that were used during the containment operation at the height of the mine spill. A couple of similarly rusted steel posts that bear written warning in Filipino, "Soft materials in the river, don't dare to cross," are still standing along the river banks.

"It serves as a gory reminder of the mine spill that killed the river," Greg Pedernal, staff of the local PRRM chapter said.

Rice millers' woes aired in Ecija

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—In the past, rice mill owners in Nueva Ecija used to advertise "rice for sale." Now, many of them are advertising "rice mills for sale."

This is the sad reality among rice mill owners and operators in the province, the top rice producing province in Central Luzon, Vicente Panlileo, president of the Nueva Ecija Rice Millers and Traders Association, said.

During a forum at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here, Panlileo said the main "culprit" is the difficulty of coping with the modernization trend in the rice milling industry.

He said to modernize rice mills today would cost owners at least P20 million.

In the past, rice mills only had simple needs that could be readily procured. But now, he added, the coming in of many imported facilities for rice milling "costs much, much more."

Panlileo, however, did not say how many members of his group had stopped operation or had sold out their facilities.

He said many of them had lost steam in the business of rice milling and procuring *palay* for milling operations.

He said buying big hauling trucks has also become prohibitive for many rice mill owners. Instead of the usual six-wheel trucks, what a rice mill owner needs today is a 10-wheel truck or those with big trailers to compete and survive in the business.

Panlileo said there are other compelling reasons rice mill owners cannot continue with their business.

One reason is the smuggling of rice that causes "demoralization" among those involved in the rice industry, he said.

It is difficult to compete with the prices offered by traders whose rice supplies come from smuggling, he said.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

[illegible]R FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over extreme Northern Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research/11/10/01

ROUNDUP

Donations for Wendely

The INQUIRER has received quite a number of calls from individuals who want to help Wendely Dua, the 4-year-old girl from Kidapawan City (Cotabato) afflicted with a rare muscle cancer (INQUIRER Mindanao, Nov. 4, 2000). Donations can be sent through his father Erwin Dua at Account No. 4151015542, United Coconut Planter's Bank, Kidapawan City Branch.

NPA safehouse raided

DAVAO CITY—Soldiers from the 72nd Infantry Battalion raided an alleged New People's Army safehouse in Sitio Putingbato, Barangay Ampawid in Laak, Compostela Valley province, early Tuesday morning. Col. Constante Pante, commander of the 72nd IB, said the troops apprehended a certain Antonio Tenaja alias Aplod. The soldiers, led by Lt. Emmanuel Cruzada, recovered a homemade shotgun and a .357-caliber revolver from the suspect.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Death threats for gov

LEGAZPI CITY—Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles has confirmed he got death threats days before the ambush of the province's top police official and two companions last Saturday. Supt. Charles Calima is recuperating from a bullet wound in his right leg while retired judge Honesto Morales and Commission on Election provincial registrar Jane Valeza have been declared safe. The three were on their way home to San Andres town from Virac town when they were ambushed.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Missing girl found dead

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY—An 11-year-old girl, who had been missing since Nov. 1, was found dead inside a junked bus in Barangay San Rafael here on Tuesday. Police said the body of Maria Teresa Aquino, a Grade 5 pupil of Bagong Buhay Elementary School, was stuffed inside a sack and was already decomposing when residents found her. Police identified the suspect as Noel Patio, Aquino's neighbor and a worker at a vulcanizing shop near where the girl's body was found.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

29 injured in mishap

PAGBILAO, Quezon—At least 29 persons were seriously injured when two passenger buses collided here on Tuesday midnight amid the furious rains brought by typhoon "Nanang." Police said a JVH Transit bus driven by one Jun Dacer was going in the direction of Bicol when it lost control along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Bukal due to slippery road. As the vehicle swerved uncontrolled, it collided with a JAM Transit bus driven by one Rogelio Culin. The sudden impact caused the vehicles to be thrown several meters away opposite each other. The victims were brought to the Quezon Memorial Hospital and the MMG Hospital in nearby Lucena City. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fire amid typhoon

LEGAZPI CITY—A 40-minute fire of still undetermined origin destroyed vital files, computer units and other office equipment of the City Accounting Office here on Wednesday midnight amid typhoon "Nanang." Bureau of Fire Protection investigators are eyeing faulty electrical wiring as the cause of the fire, which originated at the table of a certain Joven Ador, an employee of the office.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Boat officer dies

TABACO CITY—An unidentified suspect stabbed to death an officer of the M/V Eugenia, a ferryboat plying the Catanduanes-Tabaco route, on Monday at the city supermarket. Police identified the victim as Fernando Grajeda who went marketing around 5 a.m. for the crew's consumption when two unidentified suspects declared a hold up. Grajeda fought back but one suspect stabbed him with an ice pick in the neck and in the left eye. He succumbed at the Ziga Memorial District Hospital here, police said. The suspects took away P3,000 in cash from the victim.

Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop's brother killed

ANGAT, Bulacan—Armed men gunned down the brother of a slain policeman in the mountainous village of Baybay here on Wednesday. Police identified the victim as Rick Avellanosa, 30, of Doña Remedios Trinidad town. Avellanosa was the older brother of PO1 Teofilo Avellanosa, who was killed with Doña Remedios Trinidad Mayor Esteban Paulino in an ambush also in Baybay last year. Police said Rick Avellanosa, a radio operator, was driving his motorcycle on his way to work when he was attacked by three armed men.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Doctors save heartbabies

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—"Thank you for fixing our baby's heart. God is too kind to bless you with wonderful hands that can save lives."

This was how the parents of two-year-old Mitzi Rycel Sicay of Tuba, Benguet, thanked doctors of the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) who successfully repaired a hole in her heart on Nov. 6.

Sicay, who suffered from pulmonary hypertension and ventricular septal defect (VSD) which occurs when the wall separating the left and right ventricles is not complete, is now recovering after more than four hours of intensive surgery.

'Wonderful hands'

The "wonderful hands" behind the girl's "new heart" belong to Dr. Serafin de Leon and PHC director, Dr. Ludgerio Torres, who lead PHC's medical team tasked to operate on children with complicated congenital heart diseases.

While Filipinos were enjoying a holiday on Nov. 2, De Leon, a heart surgeon based in Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans, Torres and other PHC heart surgeons were in the operating room doing their best to correct the abnormal hearts of children as young as two weeks old.

"The girl (Sicay) was cute yet bluish. Her case was complicated so the surgery took place from four to six hours. But look at her now. She is doing very well," De Leon told the INQUIRER after performing three major operations on Tuesday.

Sicay was among the 25 babies who had undergone open heart surgery since De Leon arrived in the country last week to conduct a two-week medical mission.

Six of the babies, who come from indigent families, received medical social services from the PHC.

Of all the cases, Sicay is quite blessed, according to hospital officials, because the Children's Heart Foundation (CHC) has shouldered her medical and hospital expenses.

De Leon, who also operated on Baguio's heart baby Danica Jimeno whose success story was featured in the INQUIRER, said 40 percent of his professional fee goes to the funds intended for indigent children with heart ailment.

The money, which is deposited in the bank, is under the care of Dr. Wilberto Lopez who founded the PHC's pediatric cardiology department.

"We must observe the heart condition of the patients like a hawk," Lopez said while viewing the result of the 2D echocardiograph, a machine used to diagnose the defect of one of the children.

Helping

Lopez had retired from the government service but not from helping less privileged children. He, Torres, De Leon and other doctors had been offering their services, resources and connections to help more children live a normal life.

These heart surgeons found an ally in the CHC, a non-profit organization founded by private individuals and medical practitioners who share a common desire to help babies and children with debilitating heart ailment.

The CHC was initially formed in 1999 after INQUIRER readers here and abroad responded to Danica's appeal to mend a hole in her heart.

The financial and moral support was overwhelming, prompting the INQUIRER Northern Luzon Bureau to open a bank account to accommodate donations.

The patrons saw the need for a medium to provide medical assistance to other children, thus the CHC was born.

Like Danica, the CHC has shouldered the medical and hospital expenses of Sicay. The foundation also extended assistance to indigent babies like Ariel Lappay of Cagayan and Noel Mendoza from a depressed area in Pateros, Rizal.

The erstwhile thin and weak Lappay and Mendoza, who were operated last year, are now growing healthy and strong and hopefully better citizens, according to Torres.

The financial resources of the foundation, however, are not enough to assist the increasing number of children with heart diseases.

Although the doctors have been donating their professional fees for the poor and needy, Torres said they still need help from all sectors to finance the expensive medical needs of the patients.

"We have the expertise. We have the willingness to serve for the country and for the Filipino children. But what we now need is for generous people who could donate money to buy necessary equipment for the PHC. We can also use donations to cover the surgical needs of the children," he said.

Torres was tempted to go abroad for greener pasture but chose to stay in the country.

"Why go out of the country if your people need you? No amount of material things can compensate the self-fulfillment and happiness you receive from seeing the children with mended hearts become future leaders of this country," he said.

Exhausted

Exhausted from performing three heart operations on Tuesday, De Leon was surprised to receive a card sent to him by the parents of a three-year-old boy from Bicol who was operated on Oct. 31.

"Thank you for fixing (our) baby's heart. God's miracle works in your hands."

De Leon showed the card to the INQUIRER and smiled: "Wow, this is great. My heart bleeds."

Palawan revives use of dialects

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—In recognition of the rich cultural heritage of the province, the local board here has approved an ordinance creating the Commission on Palawan Dialects.

Vice-governor David Ponce Leon, author of the ordinance, said the creation of the commission would also help revive the use of dialects, especially among the younger generation, which, he claimed, is vulnerable to pop culture.

Ponce de Leon noticed the decline of interest among the youth to speak in their native tongue.

Before the '50s, more than half of the inhabitants in Palawan speaks fluent Cuyuno, the most spoken dialect here.

But at the end of the century, the number dropped to almost 20 percent because of in-migration and western influence.

Gone too are the days when singing Cuyuno songs are a favorite pastime. These can only be heard now during special programs and when there are visitors.

Ponce de Leon, a Cuyunin, prides himself of using the dialect whenever there is a chance. He occasionally addresses the board in the dialect.

The commission will serve as a center for Palawan dialects where everybody could contribute to the revival of the lost soul of Palawan.

This is expected to take off sometime January 2002.

It has also been proposed that dialects, especially Cuyuno, be included in elementary and high school students' curriculum.

"There is nothing wrong (with) our students (using) the dialect. This will make them love their country more," Ponce de Leon said.

There have been efforts by some educators and local musicians to revive the use of Cuyuno and other local dialects by coming out with books and compositions.

The newly created center for culture and the arts in Puerto Princesa City has also been holding activities focusing on the revival of indigenous arts and dialects as part of the cultural re-orientation.

Tagged as "Kusi@Dipaga" or Kultura at Sining Di Pangkaraniwang Gawain, the city cultural center has become a regular hub for artists, lovers of the arts and residents.

Every night, the residents would go to the center, located at the top of a mountain not far from the city proper, for a breath of fresh air or for some jamming Palawan style. Film review is also a treat here.

Once a month, people gather here to watch the coming out of the full moon.

"Kusi@Dipaga is also called Kusinang Di Pa Gawa (a kitchen not yet finished) because it resembles a kitchen without any cooking materials, which has evolved for another purpose.

The center has no concrete walls—to allow free spirits to roam, according to another full-bloodied Cuyunin, center director Bimbo Fernandez.

"This helps a lot to free our minds from worries, our bodies from pains and our hearts from burdens," he said. ***Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

P62-M railroad project to span six regions in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Transportation and Communication has started a consultation with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) for the conduct of a pre-feasibility study that would cover the establishment of a Mindanao Railway System (MRS) program.

Charlie Escaño, chief of Medco's infrastructure development division, said the MRS would span six Mindanao regions.

Escaño said meetings between Medco and transportation officials for the conduct of the pre-feasibility study on the P62-billion project has started.

But she said no date has been fixed yet on when the pre-feasibility study would be undertaken.

"The pre-feasibility study is very important to (determine) if the project is viable," Escaño said.

She expressed optimism though that the MRS project would go beyond the 'plan stage' because of the government's support.

"The Arroyo administration is very supportive of this project," Escaño said.

It was in the '50s when the idea of connecting Mindanao through a railway system was formulated, but it was thrown into the backburner for still unknown reasons.

No other president has expressed interest in implementing the project aside from the Ramos administration, which thought of it as a good opportunity to link the island's major cities into one major economy.

The Ramos administration's revival of the MRS project came with the advent of the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asian Growth Area, but the lack of potential investors once again threw the plan into the dark.

The MRS has a total length of 1,726 kilometers of eight-line lanes. It would be implemented in four-phases.

The initial cities to be connected are Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, and Cotabato.

Engr. Merly Cruz, trade and industry regional director for Southern Mindanao said the railway system would boost the island's economy.

She said the transportation and production costs of farm products would go down, while the MRS would also open more opportunities for the business industry and the working sector. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Bawal Manigarilyo

Simula pa noong ika -25 ng Mayo 2001, mahigpit nang ipinagbabawal ang paninigarilyo sa mga pampublikong lugar tulad ng:

◆ Loob ng pampublikong gusali
◆ Pampublikong sasakyan at iba pang uri ng transportasyon
◆ Lugar na itinalagang pribado
◆ Saradong lugar sa labas ng bahay at opisina

Ang pagbabawal sa paninigarilyo ay nakasaad sa Republic Act 8749 o ang Philippine Clean Air Act ng 1999.

Ang paglabag sa batas na ito ay may katapat na parusang pagkabilanggo mula anim na buwan hanggang isang taon at multang mula P10,000.00 hanggang P100,000.00.

"Kabayanihan ang Pagsagip sa Inang Kalikasan"

- Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez

Isang paalala mula sa

Department of
Environment and
Natural Resources

Let's All Act to Clean the Air

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

May 15, 2001

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1-2001

TO : ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS, PRESIDENTS OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, CHIEFS OF BUREAUS AND OFFICES, MANAGING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, ACCOUNTING, FINANCE, COLLECTING AND/OR DISBURSING OFFICERS THEREOF, AUDITORS, METRO MANILA/ PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS AND TREASURERS, ALL GSIS MEMBERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED.

SUBJECT : INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE MONTHLY COMPENSATION (AMC) AND THE REVISED SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER R.A. 8291 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2002.

The GSIS Board of Trustees approved under its Board Resolution No. 101 dated May 8, 2001 the increase in the average monthly compensation (AMC) limit under R.A. 8291 to P16,000.00 from P14,000.00 effective January 1, 2002. This is in line with the authority vested by R.A. 8291 to the Board of Trustees to set the AMC limit and adjust the rate of premium contribution (specifically under Section 2 and Section 41, paragraph c of R.A. 8291).

As a result, the following benefits are increased:

1. The maximum basic monthly pension is increased to P14,400.00 from P12,600.00;
2. The maximum basic survivorship pension is increased to P7,200.00 from P6,300.00;
3. The maximum dependent's pension is increased to P1,440.00 from P1,260.00; and
4. The maximum temporary total disability benefit from P440 daily to P545 daily.

Consequently, Rule III, Section 3.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 8291, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 3.1 ***Amount of Contributions.*** – It shall be mandatory for the covered employee and the employer to pay the monthly contributions specified in the following schedule:

(a) For all Employers and Employees, except for the Members of the Judiciary and the Constitutional Commissioners:

(i) Effective June 24, 1997 until December 31, 1998:

Monthly Compensation (MC)	Employee's Share	Employer's Share
P10,000.00 and below	9% of MC	12% of MC
Over P10,000.00	9% of P10,000.00 +2% of (MC- P10,000.00)	12% of MC

(ii) From January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999:

Monthly Compensation (MC)	Employee's Share	Employer's Share
P11,000.00 and below	9% of MC	12% of MC
Over P11,000.00	9% of P11,000.00 +2% of (MC- P11,000.00)	12% of MC

(iii) From January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000:

Monthly Compensation (MC)	Employee's Share	Employer's Share
P12,000.00 and below	9% of MC	12% of MC
Over P12,000.00	9% of P12,000.00 +2% of (MC- P12,000.00)	12% of MC

(iv) From January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001:

Monthly Compensation (MC)	Employee's Share	Employer's Share
P14,000.00 and below	9% of MC	12% of MC
Over P14,000.00	9% of P14,000.00 +2% of (MC- P14,000.00)	12% of MC

(v) Starting January 1, 2002:

Monthly Compensation (MC)	Employee's Share	Employer's Share
P16,000.00 and below	9% of MC	12% of MC
Over P16,000.00	9% of P16,000.00 +2% of (MC- P16,000.00)	12% of MC

(b) For members of the Judiciary and the Constitutional Commissioners, effective June 24, 1997:

Monthly Compensation (MC)	Employee's Share	Employer's Share
Regardless of Amount	3%	3%

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) WINSTON F. GARCIA
President and General Manager

Phil. Daily Inquirer - Nov. 11, 2001

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Making Davao a better place to live in

BY ANTHONY S. ALLADA
Davao City

HE receives a monthly salary of P5,000. His mission: kill drug pushers, cellular phone snatchers and other suspected criminals. His name is Dolfo, a member of the Davao Death Squad or DDS.

Dolfo is in his mid-30s but he has lost count of the number of suspected criminals he has killed. For him, the number is not important.

But Dolfo insists that he does not kill for a living. It is not a job, he says. It is a commitment to make Davao City a better place to live in.

"I don't feel any remorse or guilt, no regrets and tears to shed when I kill them," Dolfo confesses during an interview.

Since September, the DDS has killed 15 suspected drug pushers and cellular phone snatchers.

"The point here is why wait for them to victimize a lot of innocent people, rape our women sisters, and murder others," he said.

Dolfo adds: "These lawless people should be killed before they continue with their ruthless criminal activities."

Planning

The DDS, Dolfo claims, systematically plans its operations. It starts with running through the list of possible targets.

In 1997, the group's list included more than 100 names. The list was the same as that of the Anti-Narcotics Command (Narcom), now known as the Regional Narcotics Office (Rano).

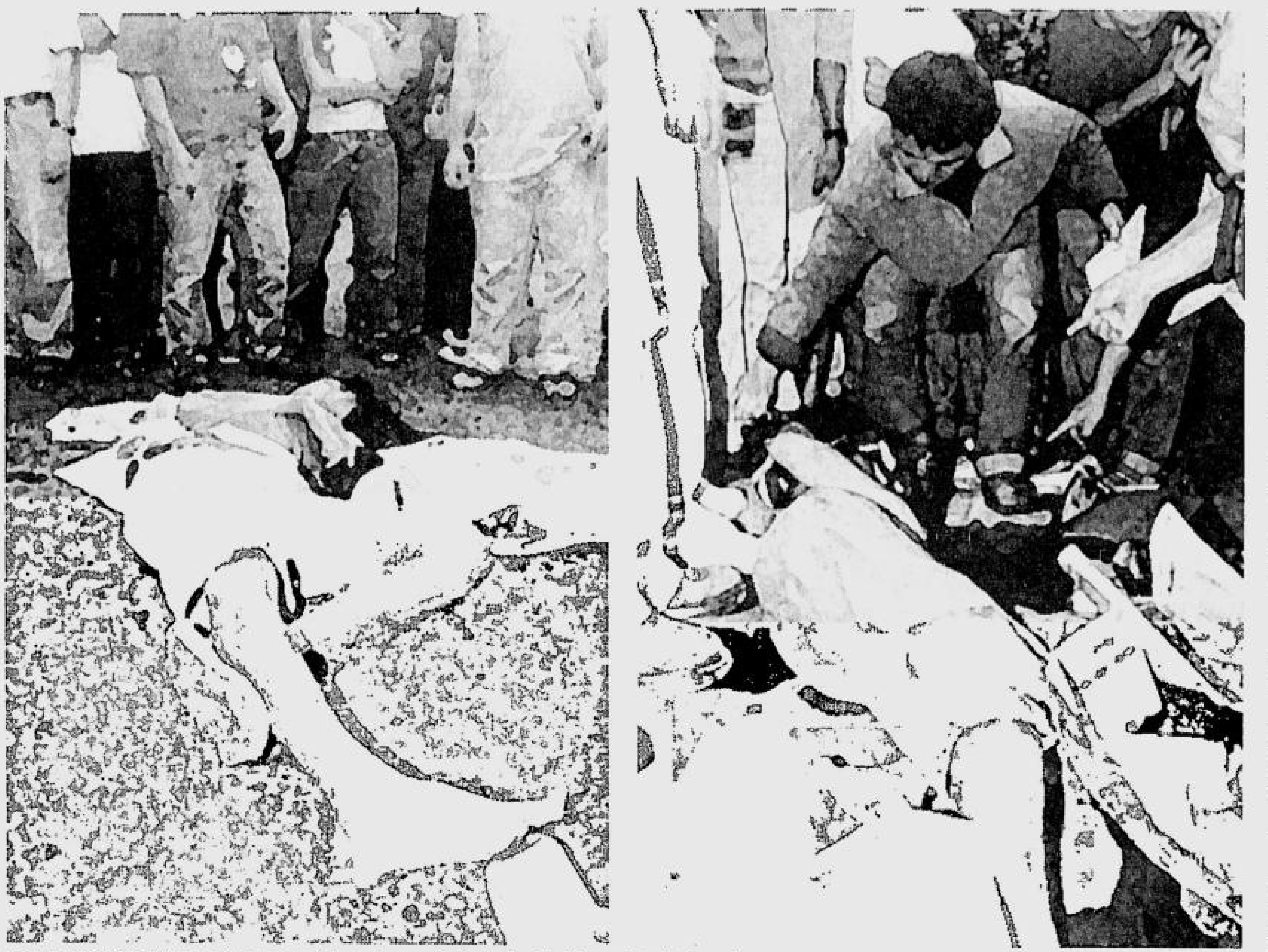
In an interview in 1997, DDS member Arvin said their list was the same as that of the Narcom's, basically because they had the same suspects.

But Rano's list this year has at least 500 names, which Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte mentioned in a "roll call" of what he called people who could "help" in the drive against illegal drugs.

The Rano list included 22 policemen.

Dolfo said their list this year also has at least 500 names. He, however, would not say if the DDS was "sharing notes" with Rano.

With list on hand, the DDS members, in a consensus, decide on the next target. Then the group conducts surveillance to get the "pattern" of their next targets.



SAMPLES of what they call "eyesores" have been eliminated by the Davao Death Squad.

RYAN LIM

Dolfo says it takes at least a month to know the target's pattern—his usual hangouts, where he waits for a ride home, where he drops, his route, etc.

But there are times when while monitoring the activities of a target, the group chances upon another suspect who is on the list. Changes are then made and killing becomes an urgent matter.

Ponciano Reyes Street, Dolfo says, has become a "favorite killing field" for the DDS. It is where the group's victims usually wait for a ride.

Of the 15 persons killed since Sept. 20, six were gunned down on Ponciano Reyes Street.

And like in the movies, the police always come late.

Dolfo admits "coordination" is made with "local authorities" assigned in areas of operations to make sure that no one, not even policemen, would intervene.

But for the DDS, the easiest job is to kill those who had just gone out of prison. Dolfo says all they have to do is tail their victims and shoot them.

Killing a target

In a very casual manner, the triggerman slowly walks toward a target, and at about five meters from the victim, he starts shooting.

A companion is on standby with a getaway motorcycle, ready to pick the triggerman when the killing is over.

Dolfo says he usually pumps two bullets on the victim. He is sure no one has so far survived his .45 pistol.

But his companions, he says, usually fire more bullets when victims take notice of their presence.

But not all operations go smoothly.

"Sometimes the lookouts are left behind after the operations," Dolfo says.

During the Oct. 20 assassination of fashion designer Joel Alburo, Dolfo acted as a lookout but was left behind by his companions during their escape.

"I had to take a taxi," he said, adding that he still had to contact his companions via cellular phone to know where they would meet.

The DDS members

Dolfo says there are five of them who are triggermen. Some members act as lookout. But he would not say how many members the DDS has.

In 1997, the DDS had about 10 members, mostly former members of the New People's Army. Before acquiring their Davao Death Squad tag, the group was named Suluguon sa Katawan or Servants of the People.

Arvin, the DDS member interviewed by the INQUIRER in 1997, refused to name their benefactor. Dolfo, who is part of the group since its creation in 1996, also would not say who gives them the P5,000 monthly salary, their arms and ammunition.

Dolfo even complains that the amount is not enough for their expenses.

But that is irrelevant, he says. For him, it is what he does for the community.

Disapproval

Still, not everyone in the Davao community approves of the killings.

Child rights advocates condemn the killing.

On the afternoon of Oct. 18, the march-rally of militant and civil society groups was marred by violence when DDS members shot and killed two 17-year old boys—Sammy Jagonos and Wisely Castrudes.

The activity was in celebration of the Children's Month as mandated by the city government. October virtually became the month of mourning.

"Killing of children is the worst form of non-fulfillment of children's rights, and what's worse is that Davao society is quick to justify the death of the children," Pilgrim Gausa, program coordinator of the Tambayan Center, said.

A city councilor even called for the disbandment of the police, and the allocation of funds for the establishment of more cemeteries.

But Dolfo says those against their activities should understand that "our work is beyond the law of God and the law of the land."

"Our aim is to clean the city (of) criminal elements," Dolfo adds.

He admits that the youngest they had so far was 17-years old.

"How can we say that they are children when in fact they already have live-in partners and even lead a cellular phone-snatching group?"

New ways

Last week, there was no reported killing as far as the DDS is concerned.

Dolfo denies that the Nov. 7 assassination of a 17-year old suspected drug pusher in Agdao District was the handwork of the DDS.

Some groups are just trying to "ride on" the DDS killing, he says.

But he admits that the DDS was also the same group that operated in Digos City late last month where three suspected drug pushers were killed.

Dolfo says the drug pushers have moved to Digos, and that they had to catch them up before the suspects can again establish their pipeline in that city.

For now, the guns seem silent.

But the killing has taken a different form.

Dolfo says the group has actually adopted another style of killing after the regional police command waged its own crackdown, threatening to relieve station commanders who fail to stop the killing in their areas of jurisdiction.

There would be less killing in public.

Dolfo says that what they are doing now is snatch their targets, kill and bury them.

Some have even been dumped into the Davao Gulf Sea after they were killed.

Still, Dolfo believes Duterte's deadline to end the drug problem by Nov. 30 is unattainable. He says the killings will continue.

PAGSANDIWA 2001

Developing an alternative to the indigenous curriculum

BY JOEY R.B. LOZANO
Lake sebu, South Cotabato

Once upon a time, learning was not a special exercise. There were no halls for education and rooms for studying.

Each child grew to be a specialist in contributing to the sustenance of the community.

There were healers and dancers, soldiers and foresters, scientists and poets, architects and farmers.

Mountains, seas, forests, valleys and fields were wellsprings of knowledge and the world was a boundless university.

READ under a cool, soft afternoon shower beside the famous lake from where this town got its name, the lines could have easily transported any reader to an almost abandoned past for momentary relief.

But, no, there was the blare of disco music from the poblacion. It made the T'boli maidens nearby, dressed in their native garbs and beads, look too anachronous even in this place where indigenous people are still considered a majority.

The lines are from a brochure of SIKAT, which stands for Silungan ng Katutubong Kaalaman at Tradisyon or Schools of Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions. In more ways than one, the setting underscores the significance of the event: an assembly of 300 indigenous educators from 35 tribal communities coming from Abra down to Tawi-tawi. They gathered to look at the past and the present, and see what needs to be done for the tribes' future.

"*Pinupunuan ng tribo ang kakulangan ng pamahalaan,*" (The tribes are filling up where the government has been remiss), Bernardo Limibid, SIKAT spokesperson and member of the council of elders, said.

SIKAT is a national network of indigenous schools and community educators whose vision was shaped in 1977 near the foot of Mt. Banahaw in Quezon province. There, a core group studied ways of harnessing the empowering elements of people's culture.

A Mansaka is one of the 18 ethnolinguistic groups in Mindanao. Limibid said the assemblage is an attempt to gather indigenous knowledge systems and practices from all the tribes present.

"*Nagsisikap ang mga tribo na ipunin ang kanilang mga aspirasyon at mga kaalaman mula sa kani-kanilang komunidad para maihalang sa pamahalaan* (The tribe is striving to gather all their aspirations and knowledge from their respective communities and present these to the government)," the Mansaka leader added.

What the tribes are actually doing, said Al Santos, Program Director of the Asian Council for People's Culture (ACPC), is to develop an alternative to the curriculum that the Department of Education had claimed to have accomplished for the indigenous peoples.

The ACPC came into being in 1984 after the Christian Conference of Asia gathered Asian youths in India. The network has developed with the participation of cultural workers and community educators from 16 Asia-Pacific countries.

The government-designed curriculum claims that it was 30 percent "indigenized." But that was more of teaching dances like the *tinikling*, Santos counters. "A curriculum must not focus on what it looks but on how it is. *Ang laman ang mahalaga* (it's the content that matters)," Santos argued.

Besides, he added, implementing an indigenized curriculum must not be treated as a non-formal education like vocational courses such as automotive and electronics. There is the singular demand to establish a Bureau of Indigenous Education.

Two years after the gathering at the foot of Mt. Banahaw, an inter-tribal council of elders met in Kalinga and launched the movement to promote indigenous education. Now, the network is comprised of more than 20 partner-communities that believe and pursue what is now called the Kalinga Declaration.

The dictum asserts that "indigenous education founded on the life, ways, traditions, world view, culture and spirituality of the native community is a basic right of all indigenous peoples. It is a pathway of education that recognizes wisdom embedded in indigenous knowledge."

"The tribes are investing a lot in coming here to formulate their own indigenous curriculum. So there's no basis to claims that '*walang hilig mag-aral ang tribo*' (tribe members are not keen on learning). It's just that what is offered them is irrelevant," Santos argued.

So also are laws affecting the indigenous peoples, Limibid added, referring to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997.

(The law is plain propaganda, to make it appear that the government is attending to the indigenous peoples)."

"What we need is a genuine recognition (by the government) of the distinct, not general, traditional knowledge, systems and practices of all tribes in the country," Limibid asserted.

The conference ended at the start of this town's fiesta. And expected was the "competition" between disco sounds and traditional music and dances.

"Culture is not frozen. It changes," Santos said, adding that there never was an attempt "to freeze indigenous peoples into stone-age." It is one reality that the tribes recognize in their curriculum development.

Diving with the Seals

BY JOSELLE BADILLA
Davao City

AFTER watching Robert de Niro and Cuba Gooding's "Men of Honor" months ago, I said I wanted to go on scuba diving.

After more than three months of tracing, pestering and begging textmates for the mobile number of this certain Navy Seal, my efforts finally yielded results.

One day in September, I managed to get his number and started sending him text messages. He must have been surprised because he also did a little research about me.

After several exchanges, we set the date for my first scuba diving experience.

It took me two days to gather friends to join by texting them. I was able to convince eight but on the final day, only six showed up.

Lt. Junior Grade James Layug, the Navy Seal I've been exchanging text messages with, was already waiting for us and despite our being late, was very willing to accommodate my newfound thrill.

James, whom I later learned was the commanding officer of the 7th Naval Special Warfare Group based in Camp Panacan here was assigned with the Swag (Special Warfare Group), a specialized unit of the Philippine Navy.

During the Dos Palmas hostage crisis, his group helped in tracking down the Abu Sayyaf. In fact, his group was the one, which recovered the bandits' getaway off Cagayan de Tawi Tawi.

After we exchanged pleasantries, he endorsed us to his men, F/Sgt. Rolando Legada, master diver and his partner Sgt. Julius Mesa.

Before the formal session, we were told to eat little food, which we obliged.

First, they introduced us to the various diving gears.

Then came the warnings, some were so horrifying to hear, that they tend to prevent one from proceeding with the activity.

If we develop hearing problems while under water, the diver should try to stay and equalize. Equalization includes swallowing one's saliva.

If one does not know how to equalize, one should expect one's ears to bleed, and when that happens, deafness would set in.

Another tendency is for the diver to suffer cramps under water and then, heaven forbids, drown.

Or when water gets inside your facemask and you fail to equalize expect your eyes to bulge a la Bart Simpson and eventually lose one eyeball.

Suddenly, I found that my interest in diving was waning but I thought of the "heavy preparation."

We were then told to change to our swimming attire. I followed Joy and Amy's parked car, opened my knapsack and unloaded my slippers? Yes, while we were being lectured I thought I was already prepared with my jogging pants, sports-bra and a light gray t-shirt on.

Of course, one can dive with jogging pants on if you don't want to use shorts but luxury swimsuits? *Di po fashion show ito, survival po* (This is not a fashion show but a survival activity)!

We then put into action what the dive masters discussed.

Their rule was simple: "Until you learn to apply it you won't get your dive."

One by one, master diver Legada watched us until he said "*Ok pwede na.*"

After that practice session, I heard him talking to Mesa about a rubber boat and a rope.

What? Are we on training?

Mesa went and came back with two tanks of compressed air and a rope, which he said would be connected to an iron marker that will serve as our guide in surface diving before hitting the end of the rope, which is about 30 feet.

Whew! At the first or second dive, we should be able to touch the sand some 30 feet below the surface.

Legada made one last warning before I set for my dive:

"*Wag mong bibitawan ang hangin mo. Yan ang buhay mo sa ilalim,* (Don't lose hold of your air. That is your life under the sea)," Legada said.

Well, I survived the dive although after that, allergies invaded my body.

But I vowed it would not stop me from future diving activities.

Business to sound alarm on kidnaps at summit

(From page A1)

Industrialist Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, characterized the statement as a "strongly worded" resolution raising kidnapping as "a main concern of the mainstream business community."

The message is to the effect, Dee said, that "if you don't solve this, then it will be very difficult to move forward" on other matters, such as economic recovery programs and investment generation initiatives.

The statement will be signed by the PCCI, the country's largest business association, Ecop, the Makati Business Club and other business organizations. Miguel Varela, PCCI president, and Ricardo Pascua, MBC chair, are steering the committee responsible for drafting the statement. President Macapagal-Arroyo is chairing the summit.

Saying kidnapping was "actually part of (the) peace and order" equation, Dee told the INQUIRER there was a need to issue the statement because the surge in kidnapping cases is "really affecting the economy."

He added, "It's really scaring people away," by which he meant "foreign investors and local businessmen too."

The net effect of the statement may be to de-ethnicize the kidnapping issue. To date, the Chinese-Filipino community has borne the brunt of the problem; two out of every five kidnapping incidents involve Chinese-Filipino victims. Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 19, a total of 32 of the 82 recorded kidnapping incidents targeted Chinese-Filipinos.

Chinese-Filipino community leaders, including Teresita Ang-See, have been at the forefront of the anti-kidnapping campaign. On Oct. 15, some 200 Chinese-Filipino representatives even met with the President to present their concerns about the spike in kidnapping cases.

"Members of the community do not feel safe," Benjamin Chua, president of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said at the Heroes Hall meeting then. "They live in fear, under constant threat of being victimized."

But official statements from government officials, including the President and the chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Leandro Mendoza, have tended to paint a somewhat different picture.

On Nov. 3, in Baguio, the President praised Mendoza for his performance, including putting the kidnap-for-ransom menace under control. On Oct. 19, in an interview with the INQUIRER, Mendoza said the PNP was already addressing the problem. "We are doing it," he said. "The answer here is 'Solved!'"

But the Chinese-Filipino community has said otherwise. In Malacañang, Chua said his constituents "generally feel that there is a lot the government should (still) do to prevent and fight crimes, especially kidnapping."

He went on to say, "They want government to realize the gravity of the problem; that kidnapping is not only a form of terrorism, it is also a form of human rights violation; it is a national problem; the peace and order situation and the economy are directly interrelated; and that the kidnapping menace could erode the community's confidence."

Catch 22

According to Dee, the problem lay in lack of information—that is, the police think the situation is under control because nobody tells them otherwise.

"How do I put this? Part of the problem is things are not being openly talked about. People are not talking about (it) for fear they will be targets. And because people don't talk, the police think it's OK," he said.

He added: "It's a Catch 22. You don't want to think about it, then government doesn't really get the real picture, and then they think it's OK."

"Nobody wants to be too visible. And that's bad. Society must be open."

On Nov. 26, Dee said, "mainstream business will be making the statement" to prompt government action. "It's not individuals talking. It's part of an output, a resolution" to the effect that "peace and order should be handled."

How should it be handled? Start with the "credibility of government agencies in charge (of the matter), specifically the police authorities . . . people are not comfortable," Dee said.

Pinkerton business

The kidnapping scare has prompted more Philippine-based businesses and high net-worth individuals to seek the assistance of high-end security consulting firms.

John Walker, newly appointed managing director of the Philippine country office of Pinkerton, the famous detective and security services company, said of the number of kidnapping-related cases his office was handling: "It's increasing. There's been an increase over the last five years."

He declined to offer specifics, however.

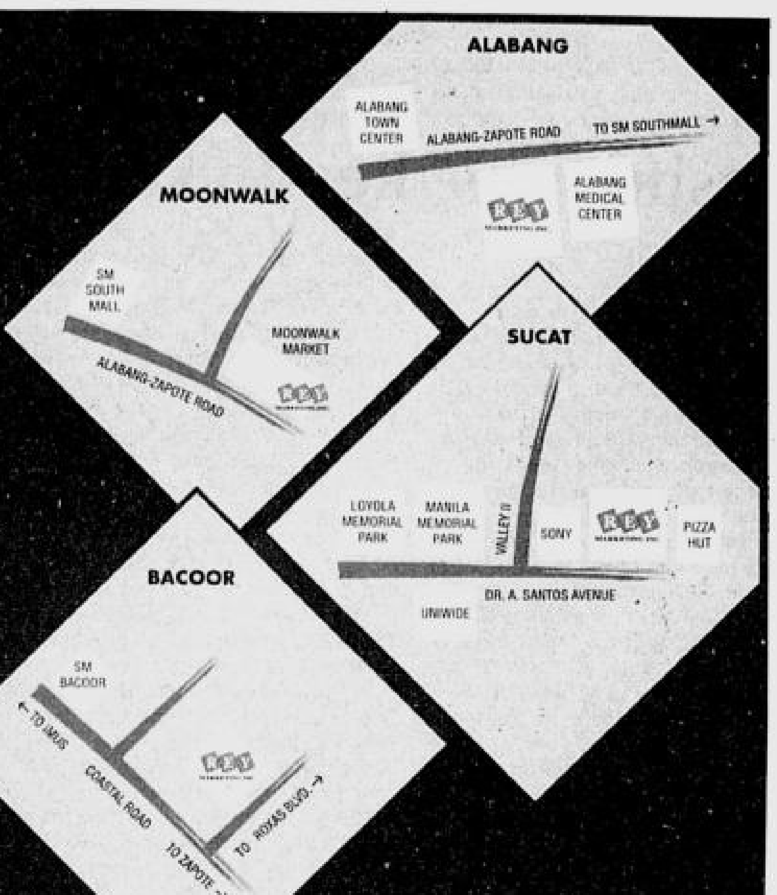
But he took issue with the way the kidnapping issue has been loosely characterized in the press. "This is not a problem that is confined to the Philippines. I get upset (because) it's not true. And those people who say that don't know the numbers."

He added: "The Philippines is not the kidnap capital of the world, and that is as factual as can be."

One gauge of the international character of the problem: the evasive driver training course he himself designed for Philippine conditions has since been adopted in many other Asian countries. The course, which culminates in practical instruction in four basic maneuvers—threshold braking, ramming, the bootlegger and the j-turn—actually emphasizes "attack recognition" and is therefore preventive in nature.

Aside from anti-kidnapping measures he declined to describe, Walker said companies like Pinkerton was offering courses and consultancy services on crisis management, emergency evacuation and security seminars.

"Those things that we don't pay attention to are the things that will get us in trouble," he said.



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12th ASEAN CONGRESS OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

November 13-17, 2001
Shangrila-La's Mactan Island Resort Hotel Cebu, Philippines
THEME: "THE ASEAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS:
KEEPING GLOBAL TIME"

MESSAGES

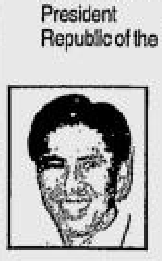
WARMEST felicitations to the organizers of and participants to the 12th ASEAN Congress of Anaesthesiologists.

It is with pleasure that I welcome anesthesiologists and guests from all over ASEAN. I congratulate the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists for hosting this important event in conjunction with their 50th Golden Anniversary. This international congress is an auspicious opportunity for the world's expert to share the latest knowledge and developments in anesthesiology and related fields. It is indeed a welcome event that only bodes well for the continued advancement of the profession and the discovery of further innovation in medical treatment.

The advances in science in this age of global convergence open countless possibilities in healthcare. Still there is much to be done to improve the quality of life among the people in the region. Quality and affordable healthcare services remain vital indicators in measuring the social progress of nations. I therefore urge you to persevere in supporting your respective government's vital health programs that bring about a social bias to development in the global era.

I wish the success of the 12th ASEAN Congress of Anaesthesiologists as the ASEAN moves forward to a bright and prosperous future. I hope this momentous occasion will inspire the anesthesiologists here and abroad to persevere in their mission to promote better lives for all our people.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



MY WARMEST greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists as you host your 12th ASEAN Congress of Anaesthesiologists, in conjunction with its 50th Golden Anniversary on November 13-17, 2001.

I am pleased to note that as we move towards globalization, your society remains committed to the pursuit of innovative strategies that will facilitate the growth and advancement of the practicePre-Congress Events of anesthesia in the ASEAN region.

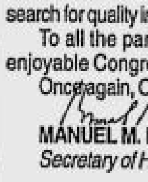
Your theme, *"The ASEAN Anesthesiologists - Keeping Global Time"*, takes cognizance of the challenge of keeping yourselves abreast with new knowledge in your field, including recent advances in medical science and technology. This Congress is one good avenue where anesthesiologists in the region will be able to discuss specific concerns as they relate to globalization issues, while continually updating themselves with modern techniques and procedures.

I therefore would like to congratulate the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists for sponsoring this very prestigious affair. Your continued adherence to the highest standards of professional competence in this era of modernization and global competitiveness is worth emulating. My wish is that this unending search for quality improvement translates to better healthcare services to our people.

To all the participants from the ASEAN region and beyond, may you have a fruitful and enjoyable Congress.

Once again, Congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health



GREETINGS and welcome to the 12th Asean Congress of Anaesthesiologists. Finally the much awaited time has come. The long period of preparation has gone with so many obstacles to hurdle, but the organizing committee never lost hope in pursuing this Congress to fruition. The Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists and the organizing committee are highly motivated and has been very optimistic that we should go on with the Congress. These working attitude of the organizing committee has overcome all the odds. The slow response and commitment of sponsors and speakers were major stumbling blocks that has caused so much delay in the production of the Congress, but we never lost hope. The organizing committee, cognizant of the political issues in our country did every- thing to influence our guests to attend the Congress. Political indifferences were shelved to give way to the objectives of the ASEAN organizations: understanding, exchange of ideas and technology, assistance to societies, and updates in recent advances.

The time and efforts that was put in by the members of the Cebu chapter of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists is so invaluable that they deserve to be given credit. As I have mentioned in my earlier messages we will all enjoy the scientific and social events of this Congress, and so for a while let us all forget political indifferences and enjoy the camaraderie among anaesthesiologists.

To all the sponsors of the Congress, your commitment to the Society has strengthened the ties that we have built through the years. The success of the Congress heavily depended on you and we thank you for all your support.

To everyone therefore, *MABUHAY*...the Filipino way of welcoming our guests and wishing all a joyous stay in our country.

LUDIVINO G. DE GUZMAN, MD
Chairman, 12th ACA Organizing Committee

GUEST OF HONOR
T.C. Kester Brown MD
President
World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists

6TH QJ GOMEZ ORATION
Professor
Sansri Pausawasdi
Thailand

2nd GEORGE TAY MEMORIAL LECTURE
Professor Lydia M. Egay
Philippines

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Belgium
Roland Demeyere
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Germany
Michael Beez
Japan
Nobuo Fuke
Kazuo Hanaoka
New Zealand
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William C. Shoemaker
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Thomas Lew Wing Kit
Agnes Ng
Lian Kah Ti
Chan Yew Wing
Thailand
Pricha Ophasanond
Somsri Pausawasdi
Shusee Visalyaputra

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

12th ASEAN CONGRESS OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS
Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort Hotel

Monday 12 November	Tuesday 13 November	Time	Wednesday 14 November
		0630-0700	
Registration	Registration	0700-0800	
IV: 2nd Meeting of the Asian Society of Pediatric Anesthesiologists (ASPA) III: 4th Meeting of the Asian Society of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiologists (ASCA) I & II: Inaugural Meeting of Obstetric Anesthesiologists Society of Asia & Oceania (OASAO)	IV: 2nd Meeting of ASPA II: 4th Meeting of ASCA	0800-0930	Symposium 1 Transfusion Controversies Symposium 2 Thoracic and Cardiovascular Anesthesia Symposium 3 Pediatric Anesthesia
		0930-1000	Break
		1000-1100	SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM I (ABBOTT)
		1100-1200	Plenary Lecture 1 Teaching and Training *TC Kester Brown*
		1200-1300	Free Paper / Poster Jasmine & Camia Pharmacia Philippines, Inc. Luncheon Symposium
		1300-1400	Lunch Break
		1400-1530	Symposium 4 Critical Care Symposium 5 General Anesthesia Symposium 6 Infections in Anesthesia
	Opening Ceremonies	1530-1600	Break
		1600-1800	Symposium 7 Airway Management Symposium 8 Neuroanesthesia and Monitoring Symposium 9 Anesthesia Delivery System
	Quintin J. Gomez Oration	1800-1830	12th ACA Sunset Symposium "Perioperative Analgesia" - *Richard Langford*
	Opening of Trade Exhibits	1830-1900	
	Welcome Cocktail	1900-2000	
		2000-2200	

Thursday 15 November	Time	Friday 16 November	Saturday 17 November	Time
Datex-Ohmeda Breakfast Symposium (By Invitation)	0630-0800	Datex-Ohmeda Breakfast Symposium (By Invitation)		0630-0900
Symposium 10 Neuromuscular Blockers Symposium 11 Obstetric Anesthesia Symposium 12 Ambulatory Anesthesia	0800-1000	Symposium 13 Regional Anesthesia and Pain Symposium 14 Perioperative Medicine Symposium 15 Anesthesia Practice	George Tay Memorial Lecture	0900-1000
Break	1000-1030	Break	ASEAN President's Forum	1000-1130
Plenary Lecture 2 Twenty Years of Spinal Opioid Analgesia: Current Status and Future Perspective SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM II (DRAEGER)	1030-1130	Plenary Lecture 3 Brain Protection *Benjamin M. Rigor*		
Free Paper / Poster Jasmine & Camia Abbott Luncheon Symposium	1130-1230	Astra Zeneca Luncheon Symposium	Closing Ceremonies	1130-1200
	1230-1300		Farewell Lunch	1200-1400
Lunch Break	1300-1400	Lunch Break		
OFFICIAL CITY TOUR	1400-1600	Symposium 16 Pain Symposium 17 Special Topics Symposium 18 Anesthesia Education and Medical Informatics		
	1600-1800	Break		
22nd CASA Executive Committee Meeting Mactan Ballroom I	1800-2000	ASEAN Fellowship Night (In Cooperation with Datex-Ohmeda) Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City		
CASA Executive Committee Dinner Cowrie Cove	2000-2200			

MESSAGES

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Anesthesiologists hosted the 1st ASEAN Congress of Anaesthesiologists in 1979 and the 6th Congress in 1989. This year is the third time we host the Congress. We are also proud to commemorate the 50th year of the foundation of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists. It is not pure coincidence that the visionary behind both the Philippine and the ASEAN Societies is Professor Quintin J. Gomez. It is fitting that we pay homage to him.

That auspicious first meeting in 1979 has served to bring back the vigorous exchange that existed among us before many of our lands were colonized by the Western Powers. In keeping with that spirit of warm friendship, cooperation and goodwill, we welcome you to the 12th ASEAN Congress of Anesthesiologists. We have prepared a meeting that recognizes the tremendous advances on the technological side of Anaesthesia; yet mindful of the profound historical precedents, the cultural influences and the bewildering economic changes that are taking place — not to mention the events of September 11.

Let us therefore, rekindle old friendships, make new ones and give thought to how we can be the best anesthesiologist-physicians we could ever be. Warmest greetings and *Mabuhay!*

ILUMINADA T. CAMAGAY, MD
President, Phil. Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.

THE CONFEDERATION of ASEAN Societies of Anaesthesiologists (CASA) was a common vision shared by two pioneering anesthesiologists – Professor Quintin J Gomez of the Philippines and Dr Saywan Lim of Malaysia. The main objective of this confederation is to promote closer ties amongst the national societies of anaesthesiologists in the ASEAN, in particular, and of the world, in general. Since the very First Asean Congress of Anaesthesiologists in 1979 held in Manila Philippines, a biennial congress of ASEAN anaesthesiologists has been regularly organized, on rotation, amongst the five founding CASA Member Societies of Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

CASA is now on its 23rd year of existence. Currently, the CASA family includes four other national societies of anesthesiologists in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. We hope that in this congress, the bid of Brunei Society of Anesthesiologists to join CASA as the 10th member shall be recognized. This completes the group of ASEAN nations in the region.

We warmly welcome you to the 12th ACA in this sunny and vibrant island of Cebu. It is heartwarming to note that the roster of Guest Faculty and Delegates come not only from member societies, but also from Europe, USA and other Asian countries like Japan, Korea, India, Taiwan, Hongkong and China. This is an assurance that in this meeting the theme – *"The ASEAN Anesthesiologists... Keeping Global Time"* - shall be realized.

Much has changed in the world around us. Organizing international medical specialty congresses like the ACA shall be met with difficulty. Nevertheless, this should not stop us from pursuing the goals of CASA. The inspiration behind CASA should continue to live in our hearts.

Indeed, anesthesiology has gone a long way. Patient safety during surgery and the alleviation of pain have been some of our great contributions in the care of surgical patients. In this 12th Congress we shall learn about how else anesthesiologists can help address the problems of drug addiction, disaster medicine, update training and teaching, cope with our natural aging process and keep abreast with medical informatics available on the Internet. Let us be proud that we, anesthesiologists, do make a difference in total patient care.

We cannot ignore the heterogenous cultural heritage and traditions we have in the ASEAN region, and these must not hinder us to get united and carry on the goals of CASA – promote camaraderie, uplift the image of the specialty, and upgrade the standard of training and practice of anesthesiology and critical care in the ASEAN. Hand in hand, we shall overcome.

CASA is a vital link in world anesthesiology because not all 9 member societies are officially recognized member societies of the Asian Australasian Regional Section (AARS) of the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists. Through CASA, we are able to reach out further. CASA has to do its responsibility of promoting patient safety through continuing medical education. Through CASA, we can help address the needs of the rest of anesthesiology societies in Southeast Asia.

Certainly, CASA is alive and the CASA spirit shall live on.

FLORIAN R. NUEVO MD
President, Confederation of ASEAN Societies of Anaesthesiologists

NAT'L DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Bishop says some officials have led RP astray

By Armand N. Nocum and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SHE prayed for national unity even as a Catholic Church leader implored God to enlighten high officials who, according to him, had become obstacles to progress with their sinful ways.

During the annual National Day of Prayer and Fasting yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo brought together Catholic, Protestant and Muslim leaders as well as government officials and show biz personalities in praying for unity and the alleviation of the country's problems.

"Give true unity and brotherly love to all the people," Ms Macapagal said during the Luneta rally that was attended by a crowd of thousands.

She appealed to God to "strengthen our resolve in dealing with calamity and fighting terrorism and crime," an apparent reference to the recent tropical storm that left hundreds dead and the continued depredations of terrorist groups and kidnapping syndicates.

In his prayer, however, Manila Auxilliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani said that some government leaders had turned to sin and led the country astray.

"Many of our leaders, instead of becoming good examples and inspiration to us, have become bad examples and obstacles to our unity and progress because they are using their powers for their own selves and those close to them," Bacani said in Filipino.

"Now, God, we are reaping the fruits of our sinfulness. We cannot progress forward . . . There is trouble in our land," he added.

Bacani asked God to "enlighten our leaders, give them sincere commitment and love for justice that they may lead us to true obedience to your will."

He did not identify the political figures he was talking about, but the crowd applauded his prayer.

In her prayer, Ms Macapagal called on God to protect the more than 5 million Filipinos working abroad whose remittances are a major source of support for the economy as well as for the families of these workers who are separated from them.

Brother Mike

Among the religious leaders who addressed the rally was Mike Velarde, the flamboyant El Shaddai leader and television evangelist who served as spiritual adviser to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Velarde, who has been criticized for supporting Estrada despite a corruption scandal that led to his ouster in January, made no mention of his old ally who is detained and being tried for allegedly plundering the economy.

Instead Velarde merely called for solidarity between the rich and poor and between the "powerful and powerless under our new and respected President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Liberato Moses of the Seventh Day Adventist asked God to bless Ms Macapagal whom God "installed into office" and make her family "a model for the Filipino people."

Lawyer Basilio Wandag, representing the indigenous peoples, also asked God to make Ms Macapagal an "instrument of your will."

Taja Basman of the Muslim Islamic Council prayed for an end to war and strife in Mindanao.

Tasked to lead the prayer for justice and peace were Charri Vergara and Christine Diva, former victims of the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers in Basilan.

The two asked God to "give us new hope to live in peace and prosperity."

Actor Rez Cortez of the Oasis of Love Charismatic Community was in tears as he said the prayer against drug and crime.

Cortez, a former drug dependent, noted how the drug menace had mired the country in killings, robbery and crime.

Industrial peace

Miguel Varela of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and Democrito Mendoza of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines prayed for industrial peace and harmony.

They asked God to save workers from the worldwide economic downturn.

Representing the youth, Kenneth Aguilera of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines prayed that young Filipinos have fear of the Lord.

The Couples for Christ prayed for the strengthening of the family, noting that "if the country is weak, so will the whole country."

In a solidarity statement made by all participating faiths, they vowed to work together for peace and unity.

"We are one country under one God," they said.

Also present at the rally were former President Corazon Aquino and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, who left before the program ended.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Chief Justice Hilario Davide each said prayers.

The Iglesia ni Cristo and opposition politicians were conspicuously absent at the prayer rally.

Casino tape key to slay

(From page A1)

nephew of Blanca's who phoned the Casino Filipino between 9 and 10 p.m. Tuesday to inquire if the actress was there.

He said De la Paz had quoted a telephone operator or security guard as saying that Blanca was playing *pai gau* (Chinese poker) at table No. 11.

De la Paz's wife called again after an hour or so. The same person answered the phone and confirmed that Blanca had indeed been seen playing at the table, Gualberto said.

"We now have someone at Casino Filipino trying to retrieve the master security tape, which may give us some very relevant leads," he said. But he added it was possible that Blanca's presence might not have been recorded because "not all security cameras tape everything."

Two guards

Police are also questioning two guards at the Atlanta Center in Greenhills, San Juan—one assigned at the lobby, and the other at the entrance gate to the parking area.

The MTRCB office is located at the 33rd floor of the building. The sixth-floor parking area, which is allotted to MTRCB employees, was where Blanca's body was found in her car at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Investigators have found that Blanca's car did not leave the building on Tuesday afternoon, when she was seen leaving the MTRCB office and heading for the 6th floor in an elevator. They speculated that she might have used another car or went through the lobby entrance in leaving the building.

Gualberto said De la Paz and his wife went to the Atlanta Center around midnight of Tuesday to check if Blanca had returned to the building after playing at the Casino Filipino.

They checked the 6th floor and found Blanca's car there. But at a glance they concluded that she could not have been inside the vehicle, and left the building.

An inspector of the Northern Isabela Security Agency, whose guards are assigned to the Atlanta Center, said the lobby guard received a man, a woman and a child about 11 p.m. on Tuesday.

The visitors turned out to be De la Paz and his wife and child, who searched for Blanca throughout the night.

"They asked our guards whether Blanca's car had left, so our roving guard went with them to the car park to check," the inspector said in a phone interview, confirming Gualberto's account.

Earlier, the inspector said, the lobby guard called the MTRCB guard to ask about Blanca's whereabouts. The MTRCB guard told De la Paz and company that the actress left that afternoon.

Security

The inspector, who requested anonymity, admitted that security at the Atlanta Center could be insufficient.

But he said this had nothing to do with laziness or lack of discipline among its guards.

"There are only about eight security personnel manning the 30-plus-story building, three of them at night," he said.

The inspector said the guard assigned at the car park entrance had confirmed that Blanca's car did not leave the building that Tuesday.

"If it did, we would have known it because we log every car that goes in and out of the car park," he said.

The inspector said the lobby guard confided during questioning that he could not recall whether Blanca used the lobby entrance to leave the building.

"He told me he could not specifically recall Blanca (leaving) because . . . actors and actresses regularly go in and out of the building," the inspector said.

A building official said the Atlanta Center would release a statement on the matter "in due time."

From Doha, Qatar, where he is attending the World Trade Organization conference, Sen. Blas Ople called on private security bodies to update their tactics and strategies to make these at par with modern police standards.

While pressing for an immediate solution to Blanca's murder, Ople also inquired into the responsibility of the Atlanta Center management and the security agency responsible for safety in the building.

"What is the culpability of the building management? What responsibility shall we place on the private security firm in the death of the famous movie icon?" Ople said in a statement.

'Stories'

The PNP's Gualberto said police were leery of supposed witnesses telling all sorts of stories.

"A few have come out and told us stories as if they were at the scene of the crime. We believe they mean to draw us away from the investigation," he said.

Gualberto also said Candelaria Ortis Tantoco, a friend of Blanca's who was invited for questioning, had given an alibi.

"She was in the house of a certain Norma in White Plains. That's her alibi. We are now checking that," he said.

The National Bureau of Investigation said it was ready to conduct DNA tests on blood and other human matter found at the crime scene which could help determine the identity of Blanca's killers.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the bureau's forensic experts assisting the PNP in the investigation were searching Blanca's car for traces of blood, skin flakes or hair follicles from person/s other than the actress.

Wycoco also told reporters that he had ordered NBI investigators assigned to the case to operate under the mantle of the PNP's Task Force Marsha.

"All witnesses and new evidence gathered will be turned over to (task force head and Eastern Police District director) Chief Supt. George Aliño so the investigation will proceed in one direction," he said.

Estrada

Joseph Estrada's supposed brief furlough yesterday from detention to visit Blanca's wake at the White Plains Chapel in Quezon City was abruptly cut short by an unspecified "security problem."

The deposed President had already left the Veterans Memorial Medical Center when the security detail taking him to where the body of his long-time friend was lying in state was suddenly ordered to turn back.

"From the report we got, there was a security problem," Agence France Presse quoted Sandiganbayan sheriff Ed Urieta as saying. "They did not proceed, they returned to the (hospital). You know how it is when there is a threat."

Eyewitnesses at Blanca's wake said Estrada's advance security detail arrived to prepare for his visit, but left after a few hours without him showing up.

Urieta said Friday night that the Sandiganbayan allowed Estrada and his son Jinggoy to visit Blanca's wake any time between 8 a.m. and noon Saturday.

The decision was in response to a formal request that Estrada lawyer Cleofe Versola filed at 3 p.m. Friday saying the two men wished to pay their last respects to "a dear friend" and reciprocate Blanca's earlier visits to their detention center at a police training camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"Blanca, an effervescent and vivacious personality, had provided comfort and precious light moments at the accused's hours of despair while in detention," part of the request read. ***With reports from Jerome Aning, Volt Contreras, Cynthia D. Balana, AFP***

Unanswered questions

By Luige A. del Puerto

A FLURRY of questions begs to be answered in the killing of movie icon Nida Blanca.

From interviews and sworn statements, police investigators have determined that the actress left the Atlanta Center around 5 p.m. of Nov. 6 but that she did not use her car.

Did anyone she knew and trusted pick her up, and, if so, who did?

Police think that from the Atlanta Center, Blanca went to the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Was she alone? If not, who was with her?

And after leaving the casino, where she was sighted between 9 and 10 p.m., where did she go? Could she have returned to the Atlanta Center where her car was parked?

Around 11 p.m. on Tuesday night, Noel de la Paz together with his wife and child went to the building to inquire about Blanca. Why did they go there, and not to the Casino Filipino? Presumably, this was because the casino telephone operator might have told them that the actress was no longer there.

According to the autopsy results, Blanca died between 4 and 5 a.m. of Nov. 7.

Where was she killed? If the deed was done outside the Atlanta Center, how was her body taken back to the building and into her car, where it was found at 8 a.m.? If she were killed inside the Atlanta Center, how could she not have been seen entering the building by any of the guards assigned at the lobby or at the car park entrance?

Nov 6. 2 a.m.–Nida spotted at casino

(From page A1)

sandwiches for herself with Cedes and tacos for her husband Rod. She likes doing that for her husband.

11:15 a.m. Cedes reminds Nida about the time as she has to be at the MTRCB office by 1:00 p.m. *"Ay naku, oo nga, makapagbihis na at mahuhuli na ako,"* she says as she's leaving the kitchen.

11:30 a.m. Old friend Dingding Tantoco (**Candelaria Tantoco-ED**) arrives with friend Norma and asks Nida if she has bananas which she would like to include in a dish she is making for lunch. Nida instructs Cedes to give Dingding some bananas. She also asks Dingding to accompany her to the novena prayers for friend Bong Eraña that afternoon. Dingding says that yes, she can accompany Nida to the prayers. (*Dingding usually accompanies her to some of her social affairs. She is also a White Plains resident. Their friendship dates back to the mid-1960s.

1200 p.m. Elena arrives and goes straight to Nida's dressing area where she is putting on makeup. "Dory *nabili ko na ng pagkain si Rod* (who is a burger lover, while Nida is a vegetarian)*at yung mga gamot mo.*" Nida then says she has made tacos for Rod but shrugs her shoulders saying that he can have them for dinner.

12:20 p.m. Nida prepares to leave the house, bringing with her a bag filled with her *baon*—sandwiches, cookies etc. In the hallway she meets Mico, her 3-year-old grandnephew who's visiting Nida and her 88-year-old mother. She kisses him, "Bye Mico." He leaves ahead of her in a separate car. She also bids goodbye to her mother, who is seated in the foyer. "Bye Nay," she says while waving to her. Cedes runs after Nida to say that Mico has left his toy. Nida honks her horn to signal Mico's car to return. She drives away and waves bye to the next-door neighbor's maid.

12:40 p.m. Nida arrives at Atlanta building in Annapolis St., San Juan. She parks on the 6th level of the carpark.

12:50 p.m. MTRCB board members Atty. Nick Pichay and actress Pinky Amador cross paths at the 6th floor elevator. They are on their way to the parking lot and Nida is on her way down to the ground floor. (Nida is taking the elevator down to the ground floor instead of waiting because elevators coming up from the ground floor are usually already overloaded by the time it reaches the 6th level) Amador and Blanca exchange pleasantries.

12:52 Blanca and MTRCB nurse and office secretary Chat Remigio take the elevator on the ground floor. Blanca tells Remigio to schedule an early day for her on Wednesday, Nov.7. By early, Nida means 10 a.m. She wanted to finish early because she Rod had scheduled to visit with former President Estrada at the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

12:55 Nida signs the logbook and again reminds Chat, *"Maaga ako bukas ha?"* She proceeds to the MTRCB offices and goes to the review room.

13:15 MTRCB board member Mara Lanot arrives and joins Nida in the review room. Lanot orders lunch and Nida offers her *arosep*, a native biscuit.

13:30 Tes Lazatin another MTRCB board member arrives and joins Lanot and Nida in the review room.

The three women spend the entire afternoon reviewing three made for TV movies. While reviewing, they chat. Conversation centers around gardening which is Nida's hobby. They also compare notes about caring for their elderly mothers, cooking, where to buy the best *ensaimada*. At some point they talk about relationships and Nida talks about Gloria Romero whom she admires for taking care of her estranged husband Juancho Gutierrez, who's ailing. The talk turns to illness and Nida comments, *"Tignan mo nga naman ang buhay. Buhay ka ngayon,mamaya patay ka na,"* she says sadly. Then the three women talk about God and spirituality, and Nida shares about her relationship with the Lord and her "battered" Bible, which she reads everyday.

16:00 Atty. Lyn Alberto joins the three women in the review room.

16:15 Nida steps out to take a call from Elena. Elena says that Dingding Tantoco called earlier to say that she would not be able to make it to the novena because she has to go to Antipolo with a sister. Elena also tells Nida that Bernard Fernandez, the 80 year-old curator of the LVN Museum and Nida's friend from the '50s, would like to go to the novena Mass and would she mind if he hitched a ride with her. Nida then instructs Elena to tell Bernard to take a cab to Atlanta and meet her there at 4:30 p.m. Elena says okay and promises to call back. As she puts down the phone, Elena wonders why she wasn't asked by Nida to come along to the church. She never goes to the MTCRB office with her boss but Nida normally asks Elena to come with her everywhere else.

After the phone call, Nida once again reminds the secretaries in the office that she will have an early day tomorrow.

16:20 Mara Lanot steps out and teases Nida that they are the only ones left in the office. *"Ang sipag naman natin,"* Lanot says. Nida laughs and says, *"O sige, tapusin na natin anyway nagawa mo na ang report."*

16:40 Nida takes second call from Elena. Elena says that Bernard has decided to just meet Nida at her White Plains residence. *"Nandito na daw siya ng 5 p.m,"* Blanca replies, *"O sige, bahala na kayo."*

16:45 Lanot asks if there is a service vehicle for the MTRCB members and Nida offers a ride. Lanot refuses because they are going in opposite directions. Nida looks for Chat to arrange for a vehicle. Once again she reminds the staff about her early day tomorrow.

17:05 Nida, Lanot and company leave the Review room. Nida clocks out officially at 1708. For the fifth time that day she tells Chat on her way out of her early day the following day. She proceeds to the toilet. Lanot and others take the elevator down to the 6th level. Nida misses a second elevator due to the overload. She finally takes the elevator at around 1715.

17:16 The elevator stops on the 32nd floor to pick up other MTRCB employees. Paul Del Mundo makes small talk and mentions Bong Erana's death. *"OO, pupunta ako doon mamaya,"*Nida replies.

17:17 Elevator stops on the sixth floor and Nida gets off. At her White Plains residence, Elena and Bernard wait for Nida to arrive. The Novena mass is to start at 6 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio church in Forbes Park, Makati.

17:45 Elena and Bernard begin to worry. Nida has not yet arrived. She gives some money to Bernard for him to take a cab to the church. He leaves and Elena continues to wait. A few minutes later she calls the MTRCB office to check if Nida had left and gets a confirmation from the guard.

18:00 to 21:00 She is now confident that Nida had met her appointments—Mass and perhaps, a dinner with friends. But Elena once again worries when Nida had not yet arrived home by 9 p.m.

21:15 Elena starts to call Nida's close friends to check on her whereabouts. First she calls Mameng, Charito Solis' sister and she is told that Mameng did not go to the novena Mass because of color-coding. Next she calls another of Nida's friends, Inday Espejo, who Elena knew was scheduled to go to the Mass. But Espejo also decided not to go because of traffic.

22:00 She then calls Bernard and finds out that he too decided to just go home because of the terrible traffic. Elena now begins to be filled with worry. She is thinking of Nida being all alone.

22:30 She calls Bong Eraña's partner, actress Gina Pareno, on her cell phone to check on Nida's whereabouts. Pareño's mother answers and says that Gina is not yet home.

23:00 Elena finally gets hold of Pareno and is stunned to hear that Nida did not make it at all to the novena Mass.

23:15 Elena tells Rod who has been home all this time that she is very worried about Nida. He tells her to just relax and calm down because it's still early.

23:30 Elena calls Dingding's house for lack of anyone else to call. Norma, who lives with Dingding answers. She says that Dingding is fast asleep.

23:45 Elena calls the house of Nida's niece Ditas to talk about her concerns. Ditas and husband Noel say that they will go to White Plains to pick up Elena.

Midnight Ditas and Noel arrive at White Plains. They tell Rod of their plan to go and look for Nida. He asks if they want him to go with them but they tell him to just stay home just in case she calls.

12:30 a.m. They arrive at Atlanta and Elena approaches the three guards on duty. One guard claims to have seen Nida leave the lobby on foot but they did not notice with whom. The guards go and check on Nida's car and report back that it is still on the 6th level. Her MTRCB ID, which she turned in at the carpark that morning is still in their possession.

1:30 a.m. They return home and continue to wait.

2:00 a.m. Noel calls Casino Filipino thinking that Nida may have gone there with friends from the MTRCB. The guard on duty says that yes, he had spotted her there between 10-11 p.m. and that she was seated at Table 11.

2:30 Noel and Ditas return to their home as Elena continues to wait.

4:00 a.m. Elena finds out from Rod that he had been to Atlanta at about 3 a.m. to look for Nida and did find the car but did not see anyone there.

6:00 a.m. Elena calls Dingding once more and they proceed to Casino Filipino. They speak to the head of the casino security who advise them to go to Table 11 and talk to the players there who have been playing since the night before. They deny seeing Nida there the night before.

6:30 a.m. From Dingding's car Elena phones Chat on her cell to report that Nida has been missing all night. She begs her to send the guard to check in the parking lot. Elena fears that Nida might have fallen or fainted behind the wheel due to hypertension. Chat says she will check with the other board members. Chat then proceeds to call the MTRCB board members but they are unable to tell her Nida's whereabouts.

8:00 a.m. Chat arrives at Atlanta and asks the MTRCB guard on the 33rd floor to go to the parking lot. He then goes down to the parking lot and asks the elevator boy to stand-by. *"Dyan ka lang, emergency ito,"* he says. The elevator boy decides to follow him to the car. They peer into the front and see nothing. Then, they notice something dark in the backseat. He notes that it is Nida slumped in the backseat.

8:20 a.m. He returns to Chat and tells her that Ma'am Nida is in the backseat of the car and requests her to call the house for them to bring the keys.

8:25 a.m. Chat calls Elena to tell her what they have found. Elena tells them *"Distrunkahin nyo na ang kotse."*

8:30 a.m. Chat together with five members of the MTRCB staff proceed to the parking lot. She notes the blood inside the car and immediately and tells everyone not to touch the car.

8:40 a.m. Chat calls Elena to say that they have called the San Juan police because they suspect foul play. Elena tells her that Rod and Nida's nieces are on their way to Atlanta.

Romancing the generals at Bonifacio

(From page A1)

hind the President. Mr. Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo also did his share of posing and pumping hands.

She stayed briefly with Brig. Gen. Percival Abu, AFP chief of operations (J3). "I knew she was going to join us but the ladies were surprised," Abu said. "We just made small talk, purely social, nothing really serious."

She stayed a little bit longer in one table where she was flanked by Brig. Gen. Jaime Canatoy and Brig. Gen. Danilo Francia, both of the Air Force.

"No, it had nothing to do with reports the Air Force, which is headed by Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, younger brother of former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, was all set to turn against the government.

It turned out Canatoy was assigned as "military aide" to visiting Bahrain Prime Minister Shaik Khalifa Bin Salman. "The President asked questions about him, and I told her he is very rich, he came with his own 747 jet and that he had a Filipina on his staff," Canatoy said.

"She wondered if we could ask the minister to give us one plane," Canatoy laughed.

The President then floated towards the table of Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the 8th Army Division in Samar. Dominguez just nodded at her direction, smiling and nodding in agreement. The ladies stood for the photo session with the commander in chief.

High spirits

Earlier in the afternoon, at her press conference in Malacañang, Ms Macapagal was already in high spirits that went very well with her high- fashion tailored dress in a shade hovering between rust and old rose.

For her night with the generals, the President had changed into a smart blue-black tailored dress, matched with beige, trendy square-toed, chiselled heeled shoes.

It has been noted that since her wardrobe revamp some months ago, the President has not been seen wearing the same dress twice. At her presscon upon arrival from China, Ms Macapagal wore an exquisite emerald green tailored dress with a Chinese collar and gold buttons. Her footwear seem straight from Manolo Blanik.

Ms Macapagal left a good two hours before midnight, with stars in her eyes and in her hair—and someone said inside her bag, too, carried by an aide—refreshed and assured that the military is solidly behind her.

Before dinner, the anniversary rites were held at the Marines headquarters where, on Sept. 3, Ms Macapagal arrived on very short notice. It was her first visit to the Marines. Rumors of a coup were then sweeping the metropolis.

Cimatu as CS?

Another rumor going around the camps these days is Ms Macapagal's plan to appoint Maj. Gen. Roy Cimatu to the position of AFP chief of staff in May 2001. Cimatu, who is due to retire in July 2001, will reportedly be extended for a full three-year tour of duty.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva is due to retire in May 2001. Maj. Gen. Jose Calimlim, AFP vice chief of staff, will retire on Nov. 29, while Army chief Jaime de los Santos will retire in April next year.

"We understand that President Macapagal has been given reports about these, but she is not just sensitive," a general confirmed to INQ7.net.

Sensitive

She may be sensitive, in another sense. On Wednesday, Ms Macapagal approved the release of P1 million to fund the cooperative fishing project of the Guardians Philippines Inc., (GPI) one of the four factions of the military Guardians Brotherhood.

Another faction, the Guardians Brotherhood Inc., (GBI), has also solicited from the President's social fund an amount to fund their cooperative.

Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza, senior military aide of the President, said there was nothing wrong with it.

"It's a nongovernment organization, I think they deserve help," Braganza said.

Kidnap of foreigners reaches record high

(From page A1)

This year, the kidnap-for-ransom victims included four Indian nationals, two British citizens, two Singaporeans, two Koreans, two Chinese nationals, one Taiwanese, one Japanese, one Greek and two Americans.

That last item shows that, disturbing as it is, the official police list is obviously incomplete.

The list only includes Martin and Gracia Burnham, two of the three US citizens taken hostage together with 17 Filipinos from the luxurious Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27 this year. It does not include Guillermo Sobero, whose skeletal remains were found on Oct. 5 in Punoh Ulayan, Basilan.

The official list also includes only the two Chinese brothers kidnapped by the Pentagon gang in Carmen, North Cotabato: Zhang Zhongquiang, kidnapped on June 20 and slain in a gun battle on Aug. 19; and Zhang Zhongyi, who was kidnapped on Aug. 12 on his way to pay ransom for his brother, and released on Oct. 20, just before President Macapagal-Arroyo left to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Beijing, China.

But it does not include Xue Xing and Wang Shengli, who were abducted together with Zhang Zhongyi. In the Aug. 19 encounter, Wang Shengli managed to escape, but the kidnappers shot Xue Xing dead.

More unlisted

Further comparison with information compiled by the INQUIRER Research Department shows that the official police list—titled "KFR incidents involving foreign nationals (1996-2001)"—does not include Jimmy Chua and Foo Jong King, two Singaporean businessmen held captive in their hotel room last May with the help of a Singaporean resident in the Philippines. The two have since returned to Singapore.

The list also does not include Percival Timothy Showers, a British oceanographer at the Mindanao State University, who was abducted on Sept. 16 and escaped the following day.

Most glaring of all omissions is the high-profile case of Italian missionary Fr. Guiseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni, who was abducted on Oct. 17 at his convent in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur.

On Friday, military authorities disclosed that Pierre Belanger, a Canadian resident of Hagonoy, Zamboanga del Sur, had been missing since Nov. 3 and was feared to have been kidnapped. Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, Southern Mindanao police director, said he doubted whether it was the Abu Sayyaf which abducted him. But a friend of Belanger's, Boy Niebres, said he had received call from a man claiming to be with the bandit group and demanding P5 million in ransom.

If confirmed, this case would bring the total number of kidnapping incidents involving foreign nationals this year alone to 19, and the total number of victims to 26, a record high. (The Frenchwoman and her driver abducted on Friday were released within the same day, reportedly because it was a case of mistaken identity, but the gang did commandeer her van.)

The official Naktaf figures do not include the 19 foreigners who were abducted on April 23 last year from the Sipadan resort in a disputed part in Malaysia and then taken to the Philippines. But the list does include the four journalists—one German, three French—who were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in July last year as they were covering the plight of the Sipadan hostages.

Travel advisories

Partly as a result of the worsening kidnapping situation, Japan has advised its citizens not to travel anywhere in the Philippines. Four other trading partners of the country—Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and the United States—have issued travel advisories warning their nationals to stay away from Mindanao.

The Japanese consular office in Davao City placed Davao City, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Bukidnon and other parts of Mindanao under warning level 2, which urges Japanese nationals to 'put off unnecessary trips. Japanese national Takeshi Suda was kidnapped on Aug. 14 in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon has appealed for the lifting of the Oct. 8 travel advisory, to no avail.

Department of Tourism insiders said the tourism sector would most likely lose more than P4 billion a year as a result of the Japanese travel ban. Japan is the country's second biggest source of tourists and the primary source of official development assistance.

Chiang Tsung-Jen, director of the consular division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Taiwan's unofficial diplomatic mission, said, "there is a general feeling (in Taiwan) to postpone visits to the Philippines. They have second thoughts about coming here because of the reported kidnapping cases."

Because of the reports, Taiwanese envoy Benjamin Lo has directed Teco to "watch closely the developments here and find ways to protect our people," Chiang disclosed.

Chiang said his office had "warned our people not to travel to the Mindanao area, especially in Basilan, and to be extra careful. They should not do business in Basilan, Sulu and other remote parts of Mindanao."

"We are very, very concerned about the kidnapping cases here. This time, we are more serious about the kidnapping incidents. If something happens, we have a 24-hour emergency hotline in this office (Teco)," Chiang told the INQUIRER.

Chiang also disclosed his office had "direct contact with the PNP headquarters. We think that's the right way to do it. If something happens, we immediately contact the local police and we expect them to take action."

On Feb. 7, Taiwanese national Robert Ching was abducted at Luneta in Manila.

The United States, in an Oct. 4 US state department statement, has advised its nationals not to visit any part of Mindanao and to stay away from places "located away from urban areas."

According to the advisory, "a number of recent security-related incidents highlight the danger of travel in the Philippines. Kidnappings of foreigners, bombings and other violent incidents call for Americans to exercise great caution throughout the country."

Like the British mission, the US Embassy declined to be interviewed for this story, but embassy spokesperson Karen Kelly earlier told an expatriates' publication that Washington was not inclined to withdraw the travel advisory.

"The announcement has been issued and it stands as it is. It is very specific. As to the concerns, it is very detailed. We have an obligation to inform traveling American nationals of the situation in the Philippines," said Kelly, also the US mission's press attaché.

Under control

Like most of the 60-plus diplomatic missions in the country, however, the embassy of the People's Republic of China has "never imposed any restrictions on Chinese nationals who wish to visit the Philippines."

He Wei, head of the embassy's political office, told the INQUIRER the mission "just warn(s) them to take care of their personal safety during their travel" in the country.

The kidnapping of four Chinese nationals has had no effect whatsoever on the diplomatic ties between Beijing and Manila, He Wei said, adding that "under the joint efforts from all sides, Zhang Zhongyi, the Chinese citizen who was kidnapped two months ago, was finally released safely."

Beijing "resolutely opposes all sorts of terrorism and is willing to enhance the cooperation with the Philippines and the international community in the common fight against terrorist activities, including kidnapping," He Wei said.

He said he strongly believed that President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent state visit to China would "certainly push forward the development of bilateral cooperation in various fields that include the fight against transnational crimes."

Malaysia, for its part, "does not believe in the issuance of travel advisories unless the situation really warrants one."

But "insofar as the Philippines is concerned, there is no need to issue an adverse travel advisory as we are confident that the security situation in the country is generally under control," according to Second Secretary Bala Chandran Tharman of the Malaysian embassy in Makati City.

The Malaysian mission is aware of the "upsurge of kidnapping cases here." But it is "confident that the Philippine government would be able to control the situation."

Bala noted that "the Armed Forces and the PNP have managed to keep criminal activities under control."

He recalled that "the only known cases (of kidnapping for ransom) were last year's Sipadan and Pandanan incidents by the Abu Sayyaf group, and there was excellent cooperation between Malaysia and the Philippines in addressing those cases." Three Malaysians were kidnapped on Pandanan Island on Sept. 10 last year, and were rescued the following month, on Oct. 25.

Bala also pointed out the kidnapping cases had "no adverse effects on diplomatic relations between Kuala Lumpur and Manila. If at all anything good came out of those incidents (it) was the fact that Malaysia and the Philippines are now working closely to combat trans-border crimes."

Ambassador Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs, confirmed Bala's claim, saying, "one glaring difference that we have made is that we are never perceived as coddlers of kidnappers or terrorists." ***With reports from Anthony Allada and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

No plan to gag media

(From page A1)

against her nine-month-old administration, President Macapagal-Arroyo does not intend to gag the media.

"The cure might be worse than the sickness" if the government suppresses press freedom, the President said at her weekly TV program, "May Gloria Ang Bukas Mo."

She added: "It's better when I disagree and debate (with the media reports). That's in the context of press freedom. I'd rather say the reports are wrong and that I am irritated rather than clamp down on the freedom of the press.

"So in all of these debates, even if they're emotional at times, the context is the freedom of the press."

The President was reacting to a proposal aired last week by businessman Jose Concepcion for the government to consider reeling in the freewheeling press for the sake of the economy.

Concepcion said the government could use the planned economic summit on Nov. 26 to "reflect whether the freewheeling democracy and press are a deterrent to economic growth."

But while the reports on coup rumors had had negative effects on the stock market and the investment climate, the President said "that's preferred over a (press) clampdown."

She also expressed disagreement with Singaporean leader Lee Kuan Yew's "discipline above democracy" philosophy, saying the Philippines would not thrive under a dictatorship.

"Every country has its own culture, so there's a system that's suited for them. In the Philippines, dictatorship does not suit us," the President said.

She said that during the term of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, the Philippines was second to Japan in terms of development.

"When we came under a dictatorship, that's when our economy fell. When democracy was restored, we recovered. So democracy is more suited for us," she said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2001
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 Mac 7:1-2, 9-14**

It happened that seven brothers were arrested with their mother. The king had them scourged and flogged to force them to eat the flesh of a pig, which was prohibited by the Law.

One of them, speaking in behalf of all, said, "What do you want to find out from us? We are prepared to die right now rather than break the law of our ancestors."

At the moment of his last breath, he said, "Murderer, you now dismiss us from life, but the King of the world will raise us up. He will give us eternal life since we die for his laws."

After this, they punished the third. He stuck his tongue out when asked to, bravely stretched forth his hands, and even had the courage to say: "I have received these limbs from God, but for love of his laws I now consider them as nothing. For I hope to recover them from God." The king and his court were touched by the courage of this young man, so unconcerned about his own sufferings.

When this one was dead, they subjected the fourth to the same torture. At the point of death, he cried out, "I would rather die at the hands of men, and wait for the promises of God who will raise us up; you, however, shall have no part in the resurrection of life."

2nd Reading: **2 Thes 2:16-3:5**

May Christ Jesus our Lord who has loved us, may God our Father, who in his mercy gives us everlasting comfort and true hope, strengthen you. May he encourage your hearts and make you steadfast in every good work and word.

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Word of God may finish the race and be crowned as it was with you. May God guard us from wicked and evil people, since not everyone has faith. The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and keep you safe from the Evil One. Besides, we have in the Lord this confidence that you are doing and will continue to do what we order you. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to perseverance for the sake of Christ.

Gospel: **Lk 20:27-38**

Some Sadducees arrived. These people claim that there is no resurrection and they asked Jesus this question, "Master, in the Scripture Moses told us: 'If anyone dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife, and the child to be born will be regarded as the child of the deceased man.' Now, there were seven brothers; the first married a wife, but he died without children; and the second and the third took the wife; in fact all seven died leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. On the day of the resurrection, to which of them will the woman be wife? For the seven had her as wife."

And Jesus replied, "Taking husband or wife is proper to people of this world, but for those who are considered worthy of the world to come and of resurrection from the dead, there is no more marriage. Besides, they cannot die for they are like the angels. They too are sons and daughters of God because they are born of the resurrection.

Yes, the dead will be raised, and even Moses implied it in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord *the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.* For he is God of the living and not of the dead, and for him all are alive."

Commentary:

Belief in life after death was not uniform among different Jewish groups. Two of these groups were the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The Sadducees were ex-chief priests and their families. The Pharisees were a group of laymen following a strict life of fulfilling the Jewish Law. Today, the dynamic equivalents of the Pharisees may be our religious congregations; the chief priest is like our pope. The Sadducees find no teaching on the resurrection in the Torah. For them, soul and body perish at death. The Pharisees believe in the immortality of the soul. The teaching of Jesus affirms immortality through resurrection. Because of immortality, there will be no need for human begetting anymore for the life of the resurrection.

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Liza nears World Cup title

PATTAYA, Thailand—Filipino bowler Liza del Rosario moved a step closer to her dream of winning the World Cup yesterday by beating American Kristal Scott in two straight games to arrange a title showdown with Japan's Nachimi Itakura. The 24-year-old Del Rosario topped the best-of-three semifinal match, 214-207 and 216-207.

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Oscar undergoes surgery

LOS ANGELES—WBC super welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya underwent surgery to repair torn cartilage in his left wrist and to have bone spurs removed from his left hand. De La Hoya will undergo rehabilitation and physical therapy for some three months before returning to heavy training. *AP*

GOVERNORS CUP

Sta. Lucia, SMB collide today

Standings	W	L
Sta. Lucia	8	4
Shell	8	4
Talk N Text	7	5
Red Bull	6	6
Pop Cola	6	6
San Miguel	6	6
Ginebra	6	7
Alaska	5	7
Tanduay	5	8
Purefoods	4	8

Games Today
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel
6:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Talk N Text

BY JUNE NAVARRO

STA. Lucia Realty hopes to end its elimination campaign on a sweet note against San Miguel Beer today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Their leadership status in peril after Shell tied them at 8-4, the Realtors will have to beat the Beermen in the 4:05 p.m. encounter to keep a solid grip on the top spot going into the quarterfinals.

But should Shell win over Alaska at the close of eliminations on Wednesday, the Turbo Chargers will take the No. 1 quarterfinals berth even if the Realtors tie them prior to the next round.

Still, the Realtors, together with the Turbo Chargers and the Talk N Text Phone Pals are already guaranteed of a twice-to-beat edge and it is only a matter of which squad will land on top of the heap.

The Beermen, on the other hand, are hell-bent on fighting their way to gain entry in the top four and earn a twice-to-beat advantage.

They are locked in a three-way logjam at 6-6 along with Batang Red Bull and Pop Cola, which will tackle Talk N Text in the other match later in the night.

At 7-5, the Phone Pals are on a two-game slide inflicted by Barangay Ginebra and Tanduay in succession, a fate shared by the Realtors, who also recently suffered twin setbacks against Purefoods and Shell.

On both occasions, the Realtors lost by wide margins, yielding to the Hotdogs, 127-118, before dropping a 111-88 decision against the Turbo Chargers.

Damien Owens, Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and Paolo Mendoza are expected to inject life to the Realtors' sagging fortunes, a tall order indeed considering the Beermen's propensity from springing back from a loss.

The Thunder beat the Beermen, 86-81, last week that further created a convoluted scenario teeming with possibilities on which team will secure the No. 4 slot and the twice-to-beat advantage that goes with it.

Jordan fires 32 points but Washington loses

WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan missed seven straight shots in the first half, had a brief flurry late in the third quarter and played on a near-empty tank in the fourth, scoring 32 points in 38 minutes as Wizards lost 109-100 to the Golden State Warriors.

Jordan made just 13 of 30 shots Friday, but it was the poor defense and rebounding that did the Wizards in. Jordan himself was victimized by Antawn Jamison's moves to the paint, and the Warriors outrebounded the Wizards, 45-27.

Jamison scored 26 points on 10-for-17 shooting, and Larry Hughes also had 26 points to lead the Warriors, who hadn't won at MCI Center since the building opened in December 1997.

Golden State's Danny Fortson added 16 points and 16 rebounds.

Richard Hamilton added 16 points for the Wizards, who have lost three straight.

Pacers 103, Knicks 95

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 22 points and 16 rebounds and Jalen Rose scored 22 as the Indiana Pacers rallied from a 20-point first-half deficit to beat the New York Knicks.

The Pacers never led until Rose made a free throw with 8:34 left in the fourth quarter to put them ahead 80-79. Rose made a 3-pointer on the next possession to make it 83-79, and Al Harrington scored six straight points for Indiana to push the lead to 94-87.

Allan Houston and Latrell Sprewell scored consecutive baskets to close to 94-91, but the Pacers scored nine of the final 13 points to seal the win.

Sprewell scored 18, Houston had 17 and Clarence Weatherspoon had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who lost their fourth straight on the road.Harrington scored 13 and Travis Best added 13 for Indiana.

Celtics 104, SuperSonics 94

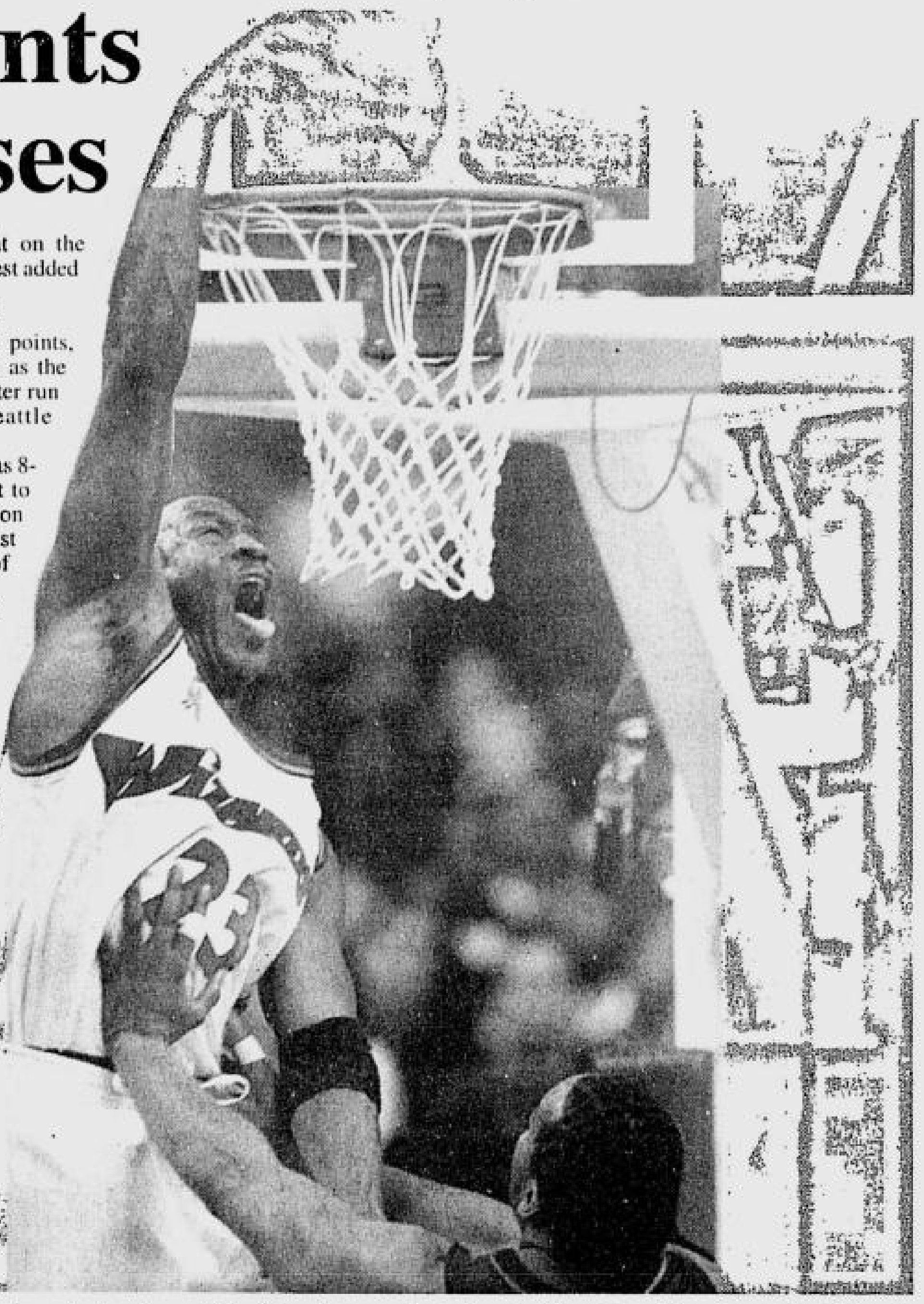
In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 35 points, making a career-high eight 3-pointers, as the Boston Celtics used a 17-5 fourth-quarter run to take the lead and beat the Seattle SuperSonics.

Pierce scored 14 in the fourth and was 8-for-12 from 3-point range for the night to help the Celtics improve to 4-2. Boston was two games above .500 only once last year after winning the first two games of the season.

Gary Payton had 30 points and 10 assists and Vin Baker had 23 points and eight rebounds for Seattle, which lost its third consecutive game.

Pierce had eight rebounds and Antoine Walker had 19 points and nine rebounds for Boston. Rookie Joe Johnson, guarding Gary Payton one game after guarding Michael Jordan, had 12 points, seven assists and five rebounds.

Complete results:
Warriors 109, Wizards 100; Pacers 103, Knicks 95; Celtics 104, SuperSonics 94; Magic 115, Kings 105; Nuggets 108, Rockets 81; Lakers 110, Grizzlies 86. *AP*



JORDAN slam dunks two of his 32 points against the Golden State Warriors. The Wizards lost, 100-109. AFP

Strong finish

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

IT'S good to have a quick start but it's better to have a strong finish.

A case in point was the opposite routes taken by the protagonists in the 2001 NBA Finals.

The Philadelphia 76ers, the Eastern Conference representatives, got off to a fast 10-0 start and were 31-10 at the midpoint of the regular wars last campaign. Slowed down by injuries to key players, however, the Sixers struggled down the stretch and dropped four of their final nine games, limping to a 56-26 record that still was the best in the conference.

The LA Lakers, the Western Conference representatives, traversed a different route. Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and company were only 3-3 after six games, 6-4 after 10 and 27-14 at the halfway mark. Shaq and Kobe then were locked in a "leadership" feud that the defending NBA titlists were a dysfunctional team as late as March when they dropped back-to-back assignments thrice. Things only turned around in April when Bryant, recovering from an injury, suddenly transformed into a team-oriented player and agreed to play a secondary role to O'Neal.

The last month of the regular saw the Lakers capture eight of nine games, including the last eight to go into the playoffs with a 56-26 record and a share of the league's second-best mark behind Western leader San Antonio (58-24).

The rest, as they say, is history. The Lakers swept the first three rounds of the postseason—Portland (3-0), Sacramento (4-0) and San Antonio (4-0). While they dropped the NBA Finals opener against Philly (a six-point overtime decision at home), the Lakers took the next four to secure their second consecutive NBA crown and register a league mark for the highest winning percentage in a single postseason at .938 (15-1).

In NBA annals, only a dozen teams have started a season with at least 10 straight victories, including last year's 76ers.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BOXING: Last Man Standing (IBF Super Bantamweight Championship Fight)—Manny Pacquiao vs Agapito Sanchez at 12 noon on RPN 9
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA—Coaches vs Cancer Ikon Classic, Consolation Game at 2 p.m. (r), Championship at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN
NBA—Milwaukee Bucks vs Minnesota Timberwolves at 9 p.m. on NBN 4
GOLF: Senior PGA—Our Lucaya Senior Slam, First Round at 1 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Cisco World Ladies Match Play Championship, First Round at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Chuang tackles Thai

TAIWANESE Chuang Chia-Jung handily disposed of fourth seed Indian Sonal Phadke, 6-1, 6-1, yesterday to barge into the final of the $10,000 Union Cement-ITF Women's Circuit 2 at the Rizal Memorial tennis center.

The 16-year-old Chuang, the first leg singles and doubles champion, will take on Thai Prariyawan Ratanakrong in today's final set for 9 a.m.

Ratanakrong pulled off a 6-1, 7-5 victory over second-seed Indian Radhika Tulpule, the world's No. 511.

"I don't want to be over-confident in the finals. I'll just play my best and let's see what happens, said Chuang.

Laguna, Davao clash anew

Games Today
(Araullo Gym, Cabanatuan City)
3 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs TPG Davao
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs Nueva Ecija

Second Phase Standings	W	L
Northern Conference		
LBC Batangas	11	1
FedEx Laguna	9	3
Andok's S. Juan	7	4
Nueva Ecija	3	8
Southern Conference		
Negros	8	4
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	8
TPG Davao	3	9
Socsargen-Tag.	3	11

THE FIRST time they met, the FedEx Laguna Lakers downed the TPG Davao Eagles in record fashion. They will clash anew at 3 p.m. today with the Lakers favored to do a repeat when the MBA Second Phase goes to the Araullo Gym in Cabanatuan City,

FedEx Laguna is on a roll and may yet duplicate its league-best 142-107 rout of TPG Davao on Sept. 30. The Lakers have taken their last six games to fortify their hold of second place in the Northern Conference.

Winding up as No. 2 qualifier is important because it carries with it the homecourt edge in the best-of-three semifinals series where it will most likely face Andok's San Juan anew.

The Lakers bested the Knights, 95-85, last Wednesday to raise their win-loss record to 9-3. With a 7-4 mark, the Knights must sweep their last three games to keep their hope of dislodging the Lakers.

Fil-Ams Chris Clay, the MBA scoring king with an average of 33 points per outing, and Jeffrey Flowers, the rebounding champion with 14 caroms per game, will again spearhead the Lakers offense, which has been running smoothly since last month. The last time the Lakers scoring machine conked out was on Oct. 3, when they bowed to the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 119-104.

Roy Luarca

Russian netters enter finals

MADRID—Russia booked their spot in the Fed Cup final here on Friday, defeating France to secure their third consecutive win and an unbeatable lead in their Pool B of women's team tennis tournament.

The young Russians proved that they could give a top performance without pin-up Anna Kournikova who was left out of the squad because of poor form.

Elena Dementieva defied three power failures during her tie against Amelie Mauresmo to put Russia in line for a first Fed Cup title after Nadia Petrova overcame early nerves to defeat France's Sandrine Testud 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4.

It was the first win of Dementieva, 20, over 21-year-old Mauresmo in three meetings, and she came away 6-3, 0-6, 6-4 winner in just under 2hrs.

In the final Russia meet the winner of Saturday's tie between Belgium and Spain, who are both top of Pool A with two wins each, after defeating Australia and Germany respectively Friday.

Nathalie Tauziat and Virginie Razzano pulled a win back for France in the late doubles match defeating Elena Likhovtseva and Elena Bovina 7-6 (7/5), 6-1.

Petrova, 19, added that they would prefer to meet Belgium than home favourites Spain on Sunday.

Belgium are favourites after Kim Clijsters and Henin gave yet another flawless display against Australia, who had already been eliminated from the competition.

Henin, the world number seven, overcame Rachel McQuillan to take her match 7-5, 6-0 in 65 minutes and Clijsters sealed the win, brushing aside Alicia Molik 6-3, 6-3 in just 56min.

World number five Clijsters then came back on court with Els Callen to down McQuillan and Molik 6-4, 6-2 in just over an hour in the doubles.

"We're now at the door of the finals," said Henin. *AFP*

Arcilla leads early winners

TOP seed Johnny Arcilla blasted wild card Dino Ferrari, 6-1, 6-2, yesterday at the start of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championshps at the PCA indoor courts.

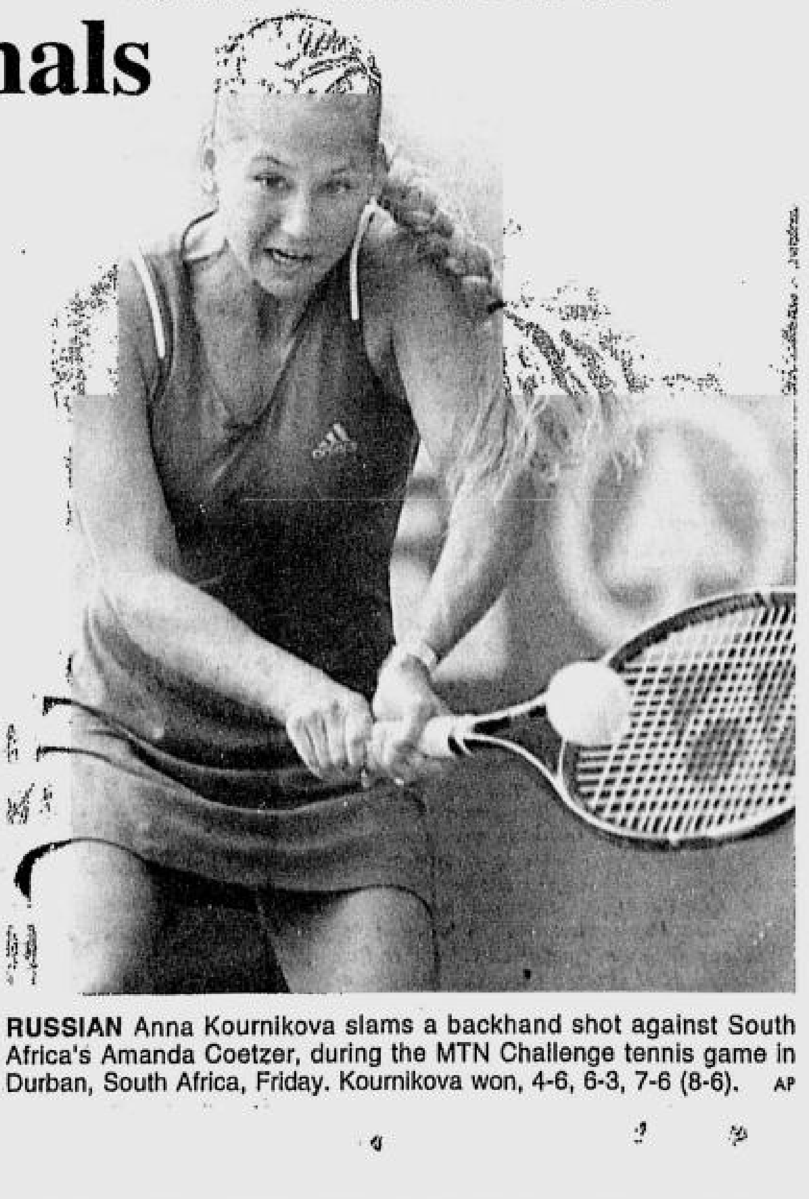
Arcilla, who ruled the Escudero Cup in San Pablo City two weeks ago, will next meet Mario Sabas, who scored a 4-6, 6-0, 6-3 victory over qualifier Pedro Gonzales.

Earlier, third seed Adelo Abadia outplayed Randy de Guzman, 6-1, 6-3 while No. 9 Nino Salvador whipped wild card Barry Lee, 6-0, 6-1.

Qualifier Renato Oligo, wild card Eddie Gomez, Gilbert Estrada, Von Ruelan and Ricardo Lagac also won their first-round matches in this event supported by Copacabana Hotel, Coca Cola, San Miguel Beer, Dunlop, Eastern Telecom, Stronghold Insurance, PVL Restaurant, Little Lawrence Inc., Unilab and Cathay Drug Company Inc.

Oligo downed Charlie Niu, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4; Gomez rallied past Orlando Silvoza, 6-2, 6-7, 6-2; Estrada survived Joseph Arcilla, 6-1, 6-7, 6-2; Ruelan overpowered Conrado Amita, 6-1, 6-1; and Lagac conquered wild card Ian de Guzman, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Prizes at stake are P80,000 for the men's singles champion, P40,000 (women's singles), P60,000 (men's doubles), P20,000 (women's doubles) and P20,000 (mixed doubles).



RUSSIAN Anna Kournikova slams a backhand shot against South Africa's Amanda Coetzer, during the MTN Challenge tennis game in Durban, South Africa, Friday. Kournikova won, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6). AP

Graft body summons Butch, Acap

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THE PRESIDENTIAL anti-graft task force probing the alleged irregularities in the Philippine Sports Commission will summon PSC chair Butch Tuason and his accusers, the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines, tomorrow.

Acap president Jimmy Sebastian yesterday said they are ready with their documents that would link the PSC chair to "anomalous" dealings in behalf of the sports agency. Sebastian said the task force asked for the documents last Friday.

But Tuason said he is ready to face Sebastian in the presence of President Arroyo next week to once and for all answer all the allegations hurled against him and find ways to address their demands.

"The PSC board will be ready to face them (Acap officials) and in front of the President settle the matter," said Tuason, who has been ordered by the President to schedule the meeting.

Sebastian, who is in Lanao del Norte for the First Mindanao Friendship Games, welcomed the Palace investigation which is on top of the graft and corruption case they filed with the Office of the Ombudsman last week.

Last Thursday, the President personally listened to their complaint and asked them to stop their two week-long protest rally seeking Tuason's ouster.

In exchange Ms Arroyo promised a bare-all dialogue with Tuason, offered the services of the Presidential Security Group hospital and gave away P3 million in incentives for the gold winners in the recent Southeast Asian Games.

"But I have been trying to talk to them since the first week of October," said Tuason. "I'm always available for them and we promise not to turn our back on our responsibility as sports officials."

Tuason said the entire PSC board would be ready for a confrontation with Acap officials the soonest time possible. "There's no reason not to give in to their demands as long as they are reasonable," he added.

Kutitap extends Shark's misery

BY DENNIS U. EROA

SPARKLING Kutitap Toothpaste added to Shark's growing misery with a masterful 77-66 win even as Blu Detergent escaped with a magical 69-67 squeaker over luckless Montaña Jewels in a pair of PBL Challenge Cup thrillers yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Six-foot-three Wesley Gonzales, a former Ateneo hotshot, debuted in style, banging in 10 of his 15 points in the final quarter as Kutitap upstaged defending champion Shark, which absorbed its second straight heartbreaker.

With team owner Cecilio de Pedro watching from the stands, the Sparklers played like a mean fighting machine against the fumbling Energy Drink Kings, who again failed to get the lift from former MVP Chester Tolomia, slotman Rysal Castro and playmaker Michael Robinson.

Kutitap improved its record to 2-1, same mark of Blu, which turned a seemingly lost game into a victory over Montaña.

With Gary David banging the boards, the Jewels, who dropped to 0-3 under coach Turing Valenzona, went ahead at 67-62 with 27 seconds remaining.

Edwin Bacani concluded his all-around show with a five-point explosion, including a triple which tied the ballgame, 67-67, seven seconds left. As Montaña fans watched in horror, Jenkins Mesina lost control of the ball and even fouled Marlon Legaspi, sending the Blu slotman to the stripe, 3.5 seconds remaining.

Legaspi calmly sank the charities and Montaña's hopes evaporated when Aris Dimaunahan's desperation shot from 25 feet bounced off the rim.

SCORES
Second Game

Blu 69—Bacani 17, Legaspi 8, Epondulan 7, Sanz 7, Codamon 7, Billones 7, Gumatay 6, Santos 5, Prior 2, Kalaw 2, Quiambao 1, Roldan 0.

Montaña 67—David 17, Alfad 12, Macapagal 10, Mesina 10, Lao 8, Latoreno 6, Gatumbato 4, Gottenbos 0, Lim 0.

Quarters:16-17, 33-31,50-45, 69-67

Orchard Founders Cup prize package hits ₱4M

Floro shines

BONES Floro fired a three-over par 75 and captured overall honors in the 9th Mabuhay Club Invitational Golf Tournament last Friday at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in General Trias, Cavite.

It was a complete domination of the 200-man field by the hefty 30-year-old grandson of the late sportsman Danny Floro, who shot four birdies on the par-72 Faldo layout.

He took the low gross honors by four strokes over the 79 of Emiliano Acuña, who was the only other player to break 80 on the tough Faldo layout. Floro's net 68 would have been good enough for the lowest gross honors as well if not for the rule that limits to one the major prize a player can win.

That title went to the next lowest net of 69 scored by Jose "Pete" Cervantes Jr., president of Design Packaging Industries.

NO LESS than P4 million in prizes, topped by a Ford package of its three most popular models, will be given away in the 2001 Founders' Invitational Golf Club, the annual member-guest tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club, set to fire off on Nov. 24 and 25.

As there will be separate prize packages both for the tournament participants and non-playing members, this year's Founders Cup will serve as an advanced Christmas bash for its shareholders.

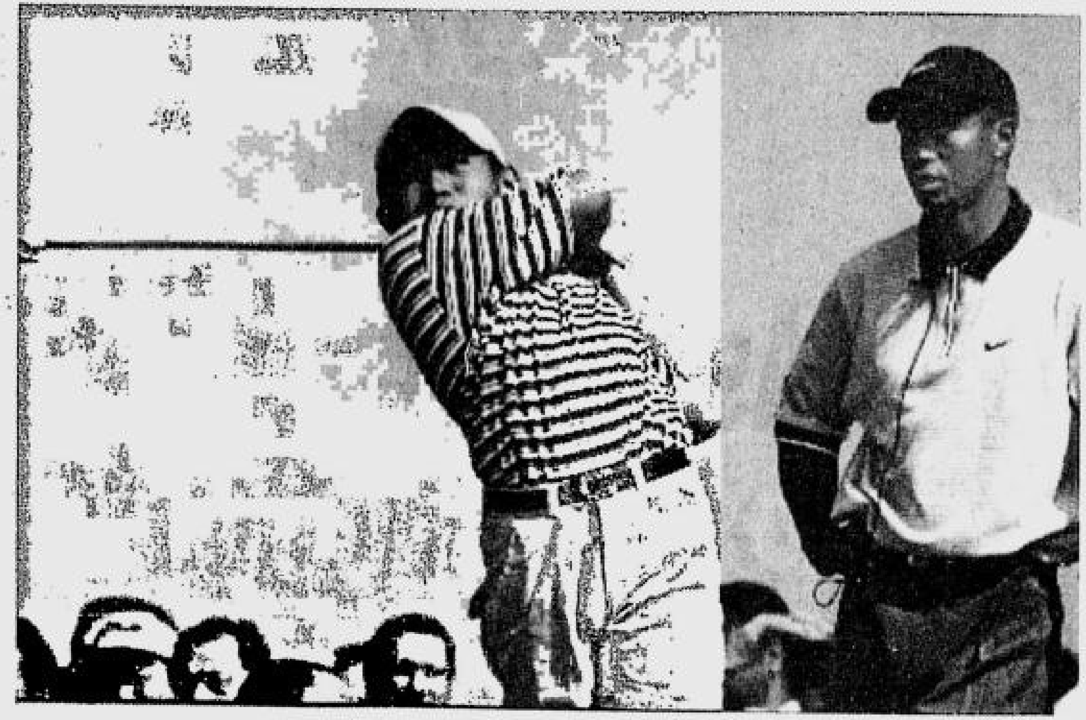
"Some lucky people will be going home with expensive early Christmas gifts. It's been quite a year for Orchard and we hope to end it with a bang," said club president Dr. Carlo Magno.

The grand raffle prizes alone—a Ford Expedition Sport Trac, a Ford Trekker 4x2 and a Ford Lynx Ghia — stand to provide more fortune to a lucky ticketholder when the event wraps up with the awarding ceremonies on Sunday, Nov. 25.

Only a few more slots of the 208 teams allotted for the tourney are let open, ensuring another maximum roster by the time the registry closes.

Already in the sponsoring roster are Cebu Pacific, Greens Management, The Turf Company, Aqua-Dyne, CICI Gen. Insurance, Clark Panham, C-PAL Metal Works, Emeritus Security, Exotic Gardens and Maintenance, Maisog Engineering, Int'l Exchange Bank, Sta. Elena Properties, Aeroplus Multi-services, Equitable PCIBank, Golf Library, Sehwani and Bathala Marketing.

Ford Alabang will put a 2001 Ford Lynx 1.6L Ghia as a hole-in-one prize while Transnational Diversified is giving away a Manila-Los Angeles-Manila ticket to an acemaker.



TIGER IN CHINA

Tiger Woods (right) teaches a boy to play golf during a demonstration session at Mission Hills Golf Club at Shenzhen, Saturday. Woods, paying his first visit to China, is participating in an exhibition match facing challenges from top Asian professionals, including China's ace golfer Zhang Lianwe.

AP

P1M FOR U-BIX GOLF

U-Bix President Bert Bravo (left) turns over the P1-million check representing the main prize of the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am to organizing committee chair Comm. Danilo Pizarro (second from right). The Pro-Am will be played Nov. 13-17 at the Riviera's Langer Course in Silang, Cavite, with the country's Top 30 pros in attendance. Witnessing are Taby Tabaniag (third from left) and Vicente Sanchez.

Palos Verdes inauguration today

DAVAO CITY—The clubhouse of the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club, this city's newest golf estate, will be inaugurated today (Nov. 11), with Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as the guest of honor.

The club's directors, officers and some 370 shareowners and members are expected to attend to witness the ribbon-cutting rites.

A joint venture between Sta. Lucia Realty and Davao real estate company Red Bank Realty, Rancho Palos Verdes now ranks as the prime golf destination in southern Philippines.

The clubhouse now provides playing members and guests a full-service golfers' lounge and restaurant that offers all-day dining fare. An air-conditioned function room is also open for exclusive parties, tournament awarding ceremonies and family affairs.

Rancho Palos Verdes played host to the Davao leg of the prestigious Sta. Lucia Golf tournament which ended yesterday.

RPVGCC Chair Francisco Dizon and Exequiel Robles led the awarding ceremonies.

Summit Point development in full blast

DEVELOPMENT of the 200-hectare plus Summit Point golf course-residential-commercial complex in Lipa city is in full blast with the back nine of its 18-hole championship course ready for test play by next year while all major road networks in the residential areas already completed.

Tifton grass are already being planted on the picturesque four finishing holes which are expected to be completed within December.

Shaper Mike Singgaran of Malaysia expects to finish working on the rest of the back nine until the middle of 2002.

The Summit Point par-72 layout designed by Robert Trent Jones II will replicate the world's 18 best golf holes, with a view of the Malarayat Mountain Range as added amenity. Its cool weather makes Lipa City ideal not only for golf but for a home as well.

The residential estates wrap around the golf course with most lots having a good view of the fairways as their backyard. Open space, clean air, and leisurely living are the advantages for the entire community.

Concreting of the residential area road network is now complete. The water system which currently services the golf course, will soon be ready to service the community.

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Hermie's 'pakulo'

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

EVERYBODY'S now talking about the 6th San Miguel Beer-Marho Philippine Breeders' Cup races kicking off on Nov. 14.

The last two days of the racing festival, Nov. 17 and 18, shouldn't be missed for it's on those dates where the six major championships would be held.

This early, one of the most keenly awaited is the Three-Year-Old Colts event.

Paolo Mendoza's Batangas Entry is heading the field as he bids to follow up his impressive win in the recent Philtobo Mitra Cup 2.

But as the buildup heats up, some minor kinks got in the way, particularly in that event.

We heard that at the last moment, Flaming Bullet made it among the candidates as the coupled entry of Lyonnais.

Lyonnais, a known *de-remate*, and Flaming Bullet, who could range up right any speedball, could be a puissant duo.

The entry of Lyonnais was a-okay, but Flaming Bullet's insertion was reportedly met by howls of protest from the handlers of the other entries.

As all *kareristas* know, Flaming Bullet ran as top favorite in a winners division race at Santa Ana last Nov. 4 and eventually lost to far third pick Family Task.

Right after the race, stewards of the Philippine Racing Club slapped the horse with a 15-calendar day suspension (second offense) "for being unmanageable/uncontrollable/vicious inside the gate."

But lo and behold, when the declaration for the Three-Year-Old Colts was held the following day, Flaming Bullet was among those registered.

Disbelief was written all over the faces of those who were also present at that time.

"How come a horse currently under suspension make it to the Marho race?" all of them asked in unison.

First time *yata mangyaring kahapon lang eh suspendido kinabukasan* lifted *na*!

The PRCI management should better come up with the right answer. *At dapat, makialam na rin dito ang* Philracom!

For the sake of the *bayang kareristas*, for the sake of the coming Marho Breeders' Cup!

***

I don't usually join contests about horse racing but I find sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra's "pakulo" in line with the 6th SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup quite amusing.

Hope you can find 15 of Hermie's horses here:

"Kahit na WIND BLOWN at SUMASAGITSIT, siling LABUYO ang KAYANG KAYAng kinakain ng RUMARAGASAng BREAKAWAY ARTIST upang maghatid ANYTIME ANYWHERE ng TUMATAGINTING na CASH ONDELIVERY KAY GEE EM EY na NAKAGAYAK at ALL SMILES naman palagi dahil sa UMAATIKABOng ALIW at SABIK."

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Race 2—1. Ocean Dignity 2. Turkish Delight

Race 3—1. Diva 2. Aliw 3. Wings to Fly 4. Carte Blanche

Race 4—1. El Magnifico 2. Impeccable

Race 5—1. Hurry Love 2. Masagana 3. Raggedy Belle

Race 6—1. Our Hope 2. Dampi

Race 7—1. Caton 2. Rock's Dragon 3. Always on D Go 4. Double Header

Race 8—1. Miss Sleween 2. War General 3. Queen Jamie 4. Despedida 5. That's My Tiger 6. Rosa Valentina

Race 9—1. Ladies, Night 2. Main Street 3. Reine Margaux 4. Baby My Beloved

Race 10—1. Field Master 2. Mrs. Big 3. Noble Regent 4. Patikim 5. El Condor

Race 11—1. Labuyo 2. Simpatika 3. Impecahment 4. Thunder Strike

Race 12—1. Baccarat 2. Speed Master 3. Free Bee 4. Art of Rose 5. Gold Pyramid 6. Chief Navigator

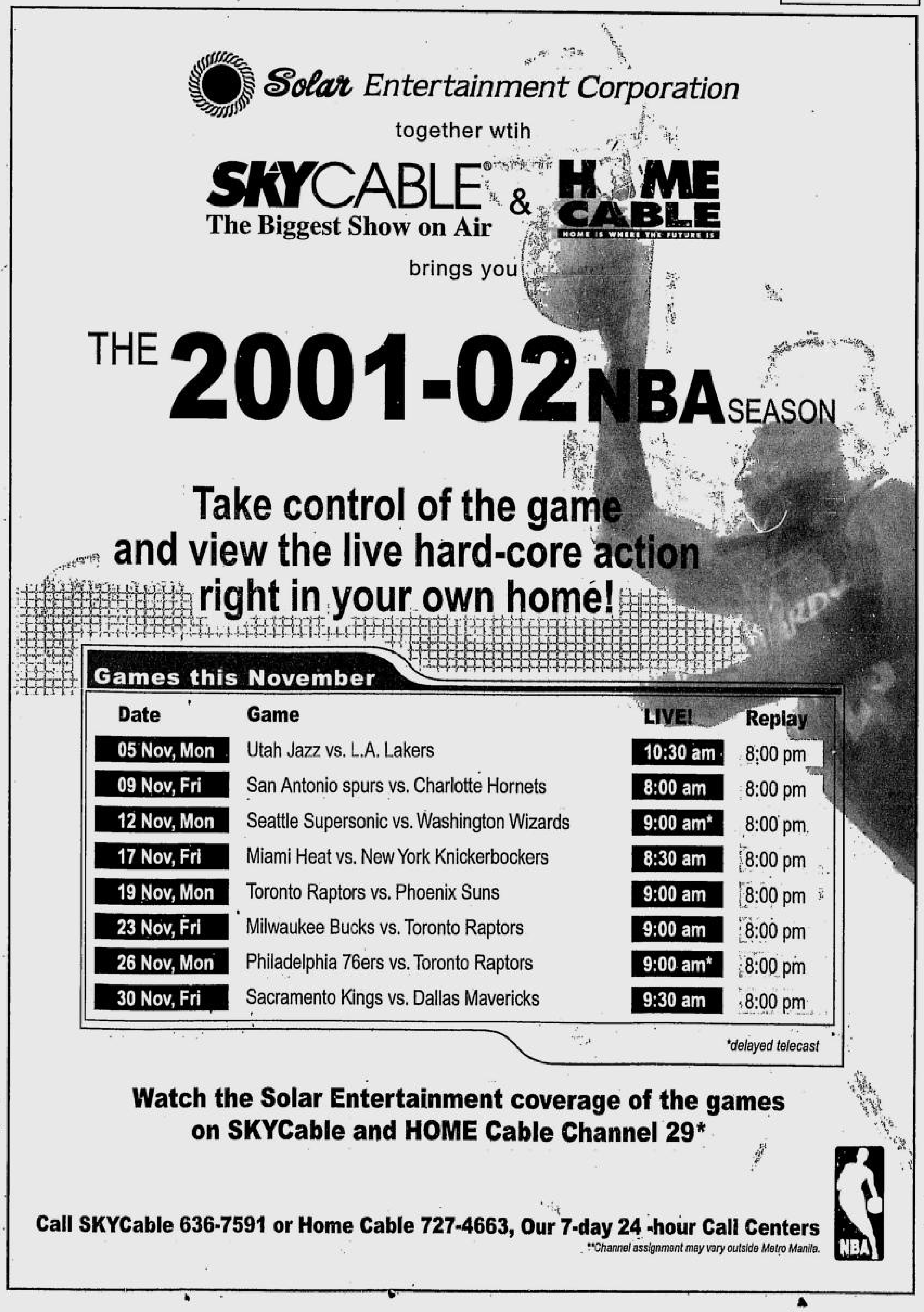
PCS derby at Roligon

COCKFIGHTING at its best will be witnessed with the holding of the much-awaited PCS 5-Cock season-opening derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City on Nov. 19, 21, 24 and 27.

Hosted by the founder of the Philippine Cocking School (PCS) Ricky "Lakpue" Castillo, these unique encounters of feathered gladiators have a guaranteed prize of P1 million for an entry fee of P7,700 and a minimum bet of P5,500.

The proceeds of this derby, sponsored by Vermex-2 Potent Dewormer, Tape Terminator Liquid Dewormer and Pit Slasher Nutrition, will be added to the retirement fund of the employees of Lakpue Drug Inc., Castillo added.

For information call Glo Mendoza at 911-89-69, 911-41-15 or 911-41-09 and for cockhouse reservation call Tiling, Fred or Rezel at 833-16-38, 833-22-75.



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09 Nov, Fri	San Antonio spurs vs. Charlotte Hornets	8:00 am	8:00 pm
12 Nov, Mon	Seattle Supersonic vs. Washington Wizards	9:00 am*	8:00 pm
17 Nov, Fri	Miami Heat vs. New York Knickerbockers	8:30 am	8:00 pm
19 Nov, Mon	Toronto Raptors vs. Phoenix Suns	9:00 am	8:00 pm
23 Nov, Fri	Milwaukee Bucks vs. Toronto Raptors	9:00 am	8:00 pm
26 Nov, Mon	Philadelphia 76ers vs. Toronto Raptors	9:00 am*	8:00 pm
30 Nov, Fri	Sacramento Kings vs. Dallas Mavericks	9:30 am	8:00 pm

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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▩ 5 yield P8M shabu A24
▩ LGUs have no funds for drug rehab center A24
▩ Rallies not allowed in renovated Liwasan A24
▩ Policemen suspected of collecting commission from funeral parlors A24

LANTERNS for sale along Roxas Boulevard in Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

Tourism looking forward to another long weekend

By Jerome Aning

GORDON

THE TOURISM industry is looking forward to another long holiday during the Christmas season following the "success" of the recent five-day All Saints' Day weekend.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said in a press statement that the first long weekend was "a rousing success in terms of domestic tourism as its positive turnout was highly encouraging."

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who declared a five-day holiday from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, has announced that she was also considering another long holiday from Dec. 25, 2001 to Jan. 1, 2002.

The President also earlier approved Gordon's proposal for a four-day work week or a three-day weekend.

Gordon said he received initial reports from DOT offices in the Ilocos Region, Western and Central Visayas, and Southern Mindanao showing high occupancy rates in hotels and local accommodations and a high turnout in domestic tourism receipts during the long weekend.

He said Baguio City registered a 99-percent occupancy rate while Davao had 68 percent. Baguio business establishments also reported a "more than expected cash receipts from an outpouring

TOURISM/A24

Put up those Yule decors, mayors told

THE METRO Manila Development Authority on Friday instructed the 17 mayors of the Metro Manila towns and cities to begin putting up lanterns and other Christmas decorations along major streets and public areas.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos said the "annual practice" would allow the general public to "somehow experience the festive season despite the recurring economic slump."

According to a resolution recently passed by the Metro Manila Mayor's League, all the cities and municipalities in the metropolis are required to display their own Christmas decorations before Nov. 16.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the president of the Metro Manila Mayor's League, said the beautification of streets and sidewalks and the putting up of Christmas decors would "greatly benefit" the local tourist industry and attract investors.

"In a way, it could also help lift the economy," Atienza said, adding that the league resolution is also part of the country's preparations for the 16th Asia-Pacific cancer conference from Nov. 18 to 21 in Metro Manila. *Alcuin Papa*

Fans, friends remember Nida

By Marinel R. Cruz

BLANCA

THE 72-YEAR-OLD Paning Crisostomo, who described herself as a fan of Nida Blanca, was at the wake of the slain actress Friday night, and it was her third straight night to be there.

Crisostomo had good reason to remember Nida with fondness. The actress once gave her a round-trip ticket to New York as a birthday gift.

"She had a show in New York and she bought me a ticket so I could watch her perform," Crisostomo recalled. She said she had taken care of Nida's daughter Katherine when the latter was a child.

Actress Celia Rodriguez, who was also at the White Plains wake Friday, remembered when they were both living in the US.

"Whenever we saw each other, we would talk about our pets and other mundane things that were important to us but would seem insignificant to others," Rodriguez said. "We never talked about our lives as movie actresses."

Rodriguez recalled how she would grumble whenever Nida would pick up stray animals on the streets and take them home. "*Naaawa daw kasi siya*," Rodriguez said.

"Everyone knew Nida Blanca to be a professional, but to us her friends, she was also someone who picked up stray dogs and cats.

"A human being who's like that must really be a good person," Rodriguez added.

"I was shocked and was in total disbelief when I heard of her death," she said. "I thought it was merely a sick and cruel joke."

She said she only believed the story when her own sister and a friend who is not from show business confirmed it.

Hard to believe

Comedienne Vangie Labalan said those who were close to Nida had a hard time believing that someone could bear so much hatred for the actress whom they all know as a loving person.

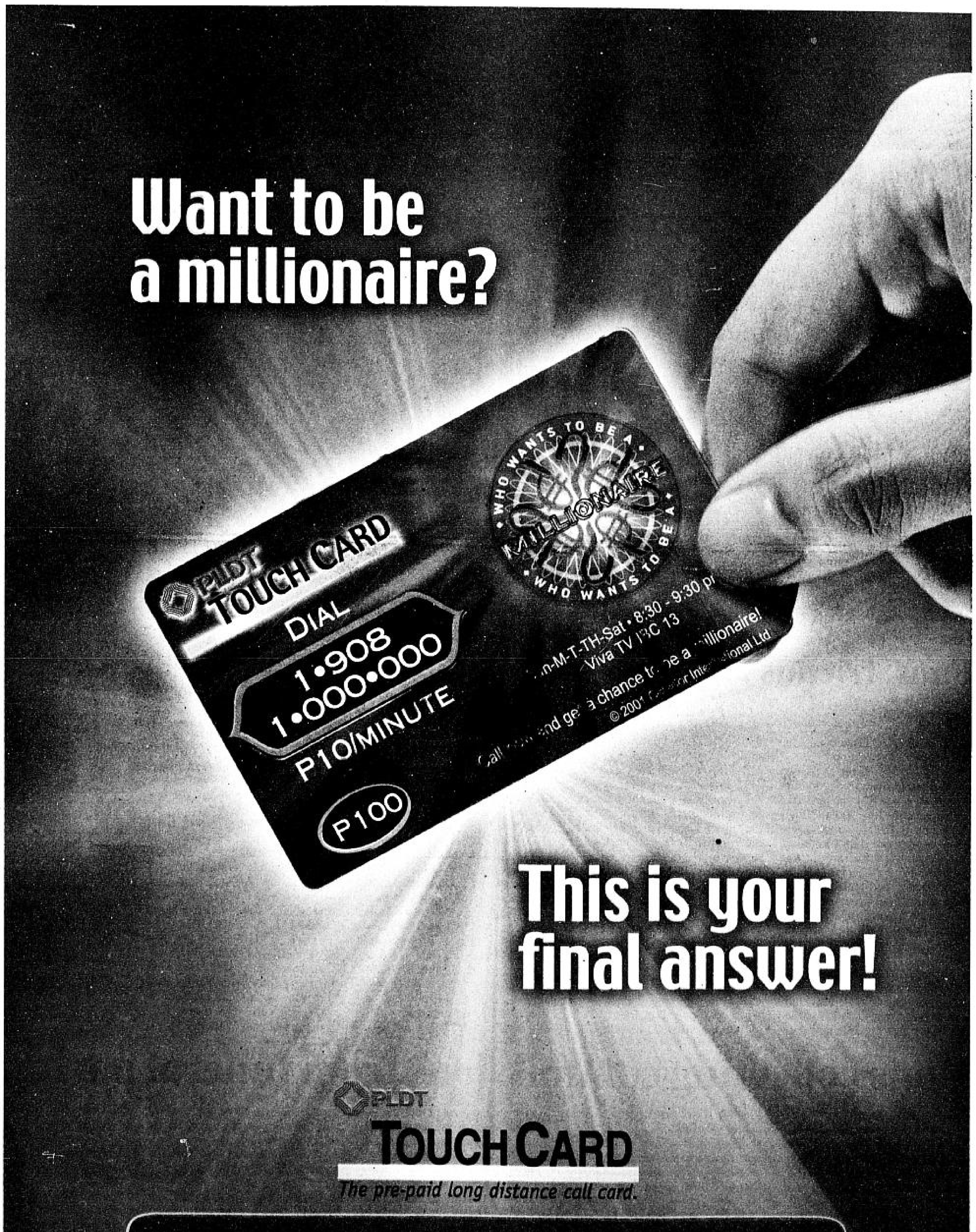
"All of us, her friends, were calling each other and no one could understand why this happened to her," Labalan said.

A friend telephoned actress Luz Valdez and told her to listen to a radio report on the murder. Unbelieving, Valdez went to the Atlanta Center in Greenhills, where Nida's body was found, to confirm the news herself.

"For two days, I locked myself inside my room," a teary eyed Valdez said. "But I know I have to be strong for Nida's family. That's why I'm here now."

Death may be inevitable but for Valdez when the death is as brutal as Nida's, "I find it hard to accept."

FANS, FRIENDS/A24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5 yield ₱8M shabu

₱6M from 3 Pinoys, ₱2M from 2 Chinese

By Jerome Aning and Luige del Puerto

AUTHORITIES dealt a hard blow to the drug trade when they seized a total of P8 million worth of shabu in three separate operations this week.

The national police's Narcotics Group (PNP Nar-Group) scored the biggest haul, seizing shabu worth P6 million from three suspected traffickers in Manila and Pasay City on Thursday.

National Bureau of Investigation agents also busted two Chinese in a P2-million sting operation in Ermita, Manila early this week.

Rogelio Pediongco, 36, a native of Baguio City and resident of Binondo, Manila, was the first to fall when he tried to complete a P2-million shabu deal with an undercover narcotics agent at the Pharoah Hotel in Sta. Cruz, Manila about 6 p.m. Thursday, Nar-Group director Chief Supt. Reynor Gonzales said.

At press time, Nar-Group is still conducting follow-up operations to arrest Pediongco's drug source, believed to be Chinese and based in Sta. Cruz.

Gonzales withheld the identity of the source, saying premature disclosure could jeopardize their operations.

The Nar-Group chief said the Chinese suspect could be part of the drug ring that was busted in Pasig City earlier this week.

All those arrested in the raid on the shabu laboratory in Pasig were Chinese, Gonzales said.

The leader of the group, a certain Cai Hong Tai, alias Huai Ja, is said to be a doctor and head chemist of the laboratory where shabu was manufactured, Gonzales said.

Police are now trying to locate him.

Also on Thursday, Nar-Group members arrested Rodolfo Andres and his wife Cristina Javier in a buy-bust at the Cuneta Astrodome on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Gonzales said his men seized two kilos of shabu worth P4 million from Andres, 69, and Javier, 47, of Barrio Puting Lupa, Calamba City.

Gonzales said police also impounded the couple's jeep (DRJ-371), which they used in delivering drugs.

The confiscated drugs were taken to the PNP Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame for safekeeping.

On Tuesday, NBI agents arrested Hui Kwai Fu alias Charles Uy, 33, of Navotas, and Shi Hui Tsing alias John Sy, 24, of Balintawak, Quezon City for selling a kilo of shabu worth P2 million.

The NBI said both suspects are natives of Fujian, China.

A third man said to be the ringleader, Allan Lee, eluded arrest, NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco said.

Investigation by the bureau's Special Task Force and Dangerous Drugs Division showed that Shi and Lee were using the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City as base of operations.

STF and DDD agents haggled with Shi and Lee at the hotel parking lot about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, and managed to convince the suspects to sell them a kilo of shabu for P550,000.

Shi invited a female NBI informant to hotel Room 442 where he said he would call up his supplier. Shi then took the informant and two NBI undercover agents to the Cowboy Grill and Restaurant on Mabini Street in Ermita.

At the restaurant, they met Hui, who handed them the key to a green Toyota Revo (LDI-636) parked in front of the restaurant.

When the agents saw the shabu inside the vehicle, they signaled the other agents who had been tailing them to close in on the suspects. Hui and Shi tried to escape but were overpowered.

Shi later tagged Lee as their supplier, but when the NBI agents returned to the hotel, Lee was gone.

Hui and Shi were charged with violation of Republic Act No. 6425, or the Dangerous Drugs Act, before the Manila prosecutor's office.

LGUs have no funds for Metro Manila drug rehab center

By Alcuin Papa

THE METRO Manila Drug Rehabilitation Center (MMDRC) in Taguig has ceased accepting drug patients after local government units failed to provide financial support to the institution, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials said yesterday.

The MMDA reported that the LGUs, which pledged to financially support the MMDRC, owe the facility P9.9 million as of June this year. The deficit ballooned since 1999 because the 17 Metro Manila mayors did not or would not allocate funds for the rehabilitation of drug dependents.

The MMDA and the 17 LGUs established the rehabilitation center in 1999 through a memorandum of agreement. The facility was to serve as the main treatment center for drug dependents in Metro Manila.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos said the P9.9-million deficit includes the facility's operating and maintenance expenses as well as meals and medical supplies for 1,523 patients presently confined at the center.

Abalos said when an LGU refers a patient to the MMDRC, the LGU is required to cover the costs of maintaining the patient at P17 a day.

But due to the increase in the costs of medicine and food, the Metro Manila Council decided to raise the share of the LGUs to P70 per patient.

Officials of the Makati city government admitted they actually did not allocate a budget for such expenses, despite the agreement they signed with the MMDA.

As of June, Manila has the most number of patients at the facility (344), followed by Quezon City (204), Caloocan City (148), Pasay City (132), and Makati (115).

Based on figures provided by the MMDRC, the city of Manila owes the rehab center a total of P2,166,780.

Under the agreement, Taguig, Pateros and Navotas are exempt from the monthly remittance because of their status as municipalities.

The cities are supposed to cover the expenses of the patients coming from the three municipalities.

As agreed upon, the MMDA was supposed to advance the total payment to the rehab center on behalf of the LGUs. But Abalos said this could not be done because the MMDA does not have the funds.

Abalos stressed the LGUs should immediately remit what they owe to the rehab center to ensure that the patients are taken care of.

FANS and other curious people fill the White Plains chapel where Nida Blanca's remains lie in state.

JOAN BONDOC

Fans, friends . . .

(From page A23)

"She was like a sister to me," she said of Nida.

Big sister

Valdez said Blanca was very supportive of her when she was still starting in show biz. "Dory (Nida's real name is Dorothy Jones) was never jealous and didn't mind the competition," she shared. "She would even let me wear her clothes."

She said it was mostly because of Nida that their group of friends from the LVN days is still intact. Nida became like their big sister after the death of another actresses, Charito Solis.

Former character actress Zeny Zabala was watching TV when a news flash said a still unidentified woman was found dead in the back seat of a car at the Atlanta Center parking lot. "When police said it could be Nida, I fell to my knees and prayed that they were wrong," she said.

Zabala and Nida worked together in films like "Bumunot Ka't Lumaban" and "Bulung-bulungan." She remembered the times when they went to parties or celebrated the birthday of Nida's daughter Katherine at Nida's farm house in Novaliches.

Enriching

Director Jeffry Jeturian, who directed the critically acclaimed film "Sana Pag-ibig Na," which earned Nida several acting awards, described working with her as an enriching experience. He said it was very generous of her to agree to act in the movie despite the fact that it was a "pito-pito" (quickie).

Jeturian said that because Nida was the versatile actress that she was, people took notice of the movie he directed and he was given other breaks such as "Pila Balde" and "Tuhog," which have also won awards.

"If you had problems and you turned to her, she would support you all the way," said Nida's niece Abel San Jose, who looked sleepless and weary as she entertained relatives and friends at the wake. San Jose and her sister Letty had been on their toes all night trying to pacify some 200 fans who wanted to go inside the chapel all at the same time.

A child like Nida

Lourdes Baltazar, 62, who came from Biñan, Laguna, said: "I felt terrible when I heard of her death. She was a good performer. When I was young I would watch her, Nestor (de Villa) and Gloria (Romero)."

Tessie Ponce, 55, joined Baltazar in going to the wake. "We've been here for five hours now and we intend to stay some more for Nida," she said.

"I've followed the life of Nida," said Ike Perez, 55. He said he came on behalf of his mother, ``the real Nida fan."

"When my mother was pregnant with her fifth child, she was so fond of Nida," Perez said. "That child, my sister, grew up to be good-humored and jovial, just like Nida."

Other former LVN actresses who went to Nida's wake were Camencita Abad, Marita Zobel, Caridad Sanchez, Delia Razon, Lourdes Medel and Mila Ocampo.

Also present Friday night were actresses Judy Ann Santos and Beth Tamayo, director Mario J. de los Reyes, talk show hosts Kris Aquino and Cristy Fermin.

Rallies not allowed at renovated Liwasan–Atienza

RALLIES and demonstrations will be prohibited at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila after the square is renovated and converted into a "genuine park" that will be reopened in January 2002.

During an inspection of the renovation work yesterday morning, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza told reporters that protesters would be allowed to use the Liwasan only as an assembly point for marches.

Organizers must also ensure that the gatherings would not be violent, he added.

The mayor said demonstrators and organizers would also be penalized for littering, posting bills, destroying plants, or vandalizing park fixtures.

The Liwasan, the big park between the Post Office building and the Metropolitan Theater, is a favorite ground of groups advocating labor and economic issues, especially since the place honors national hero Andres Bonifacio, also known as the "Great Plebeian" and "Champion of the Masses."

The mayor said demonstrators would be encouraged to go to Rizal Park, which is bigger. Rizal Park, which is under the National Parks Development Committee, is a designated "freedom park," or venue for protest actions.

Once redeveloped, the Liwasang Bonifacio will be "a prime destination for tourists and promenaders" much like New York City's Central Park and London's Hyde Park.

"I assure city residents and those who frequent the area that they will be pleasantly surprised with its new look," Atienza said. "Liwasang Bonifacio will be beautiful once more and will truly be worthy of its name."

He said Bonifacio's monument at the center of the park would be mounted on a new and bigger pedestal and the concrete flooring around the monument would be replaced with granite.

A new fountain that would spout water as high as 50 feet would also be installed behind the monument. A smaller fountain made of rocks with a miniature waterfall would be built on the west side.

Small sculptures, lampposts, ground lights and landscaped pathways would also be set up. Food stalls and snack kiosks would be allowed in the park's perimeter.

The Liwasan's total facelift is part of the Central Manila Redevelopment Plan, which also includes the improvement of the Mehan Gardens, the Light Rail Transit's Central Station, and the Pasig riverbanks behind the Bureau of Immigration building and in San Nicolas, Binondo.

The plan also aims to facilitate the smooth flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic passing through the Liwasan by cleaning up and reopening the underpasses in the area.

Cops collecting commissions from funeral parlors

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA councilor has asked the commander of the Western Police District to investigate some of his men who allegedly collect commission from funeral parlors in exchange for referring bodies of crime victims to them.

In a proposed resolution, Councilor Juan Miguel Cuna of the 5th district urged Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. to stop what he said is an illegal practice.

Cuna said some of his constituents have complained to his office that funeral parlors were charging them exorbitant fees for autopsy performed on the bodies of their deceased relatives.

These policemen, according to the complainants, get a commission from the funeral parlors for each referral they make. Sometimes, funeral parlors even try to outbid one another in offering commissions to policemen handling homicide and murder cases, the councilor said.

Cuna said he also found out that the policemen's commission is added to the bill the funeral parlors charge for autopsy and embalming.

"*Namatayan na nga pagsasamantalahan pa,*" Cuna said. "On top of having to bear the pain of losing a loved one, they are made to pay exorbitant fees for the release of the body.

"Bringing bodies to selected funeral parlors for autopsy and receiving a commission for doing so is definitely illegal," he added. "I hope General Pasinos will investigate and put a stop to this unscrupulous practice."

Cuna said Section 3 of Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, clearly prohibits public officers from giving unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference to private parties in the discharge of their official duties.

He said he has advised the complainants to file an administrative case against the erring policemen before the People's Law Enforcement Board.

Prayer rally

A PRAYER rally at the Peace Bell area of the Quezon City Memorial Circle at 6 a.m. today kicks off the celebration of Deaf Awareness Week. The celebration will run until Nov. 17.

Some 3,000 members of different government and non-government agencies for the deaf will walk to the Quezon City Memorial Circle and converge there for the prayer rally to be led by running priest Fr. Robert Reyes.

Tourism looking forward to another. . .

(From page A23)

of local and foreign tourists."

DOT Region 1 Director Purificacion Suanding-Molintas said 10,714 local and foreign tourists visited destinations in the Ilocos provinces as well as the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan.

In Boracay, the resort island in Aklan province, at least eight resorts had a 100-percent occupancy rate. In Cebu City and Mactan, four resort hotels reported a 90-percent occupancy rate, while seven other high-end resort hotels had an average of 83 percent.

Even in Davao, the Barcelo Pearl Farm registered a high of 84 percent occupancy rate. Bandits had tried to attack the same resort last year, according to DOT director Sonia Garcia.

The nearby Eden Nature Park and Reserve posted the highest occupancy rate in Region XI at 100 percent, she added.

The recent long holiday showed tourism's "enormous potentials in sustaining livelihood opportunities in the countryside," Gordon said.

"This overwhelming turnout is the kind of response we would like to receive from our countrymen," he added.

Gordon yesterday left for Europe on another official mission to drum up interest in Philippine tourism.

Gordon will visit key European cities, including London, where the World Travel Mart will be held from Nov. 12 to 16.

The tourism secretary will push the DOT's Volunteer 12 program to Filipino communities in France and Germany. The program encourages overseas Filipino workers and Filipino residents in other countries to get at least one of their employers or friends to visit the Philippines.

Gordon is banking on the free publicity he could generate from media appearances and interviews with European media to assure the European market that tourists are safe in the Philippines.

He said he would meet with French, German and British travel trade journalists to outline moves by the Philippine government to improve safety measures, particularly in resorts frequented by Europeans.

He will also join with the Philippines-France Business Council Mission in Paris and speak before French businessmen.

Gordon said that aside from the worldwide slump in travel because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, security concerns continue to be a major deterrent to the inflow of foreign tourists to the Philippines.

He said travel advisories on the Philippines issued by its major tourism markets such as Japan "were founded on fears and hysteria that only serve to play up the desire of terrorists to sow terror and cripple the world economy."

World peace lecture series

DR. JOSEF de Ubaldo, DSc., national chancellor of the International Association of Educators for World Peace, has arranged a lecture series on world peace to be conducted by Dr. Charles Mercieca, Ph D., professor emerituAs of Alabama A&M University and president of the International Association of Educators for World Peace.

Lecture dates are today, 2-5 p.m.; Nov. 12, 2-5 p.m.; Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2-5 p.m.; Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-12 noon.

The lectures will be held at the Century Park Hotel.

De Ubaldo's book, "Insights on World Peace Through Education and Culture," will be available during the lecture series at a discounted price.

Interested parties may call 371-7015 up to 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chiang Kai Shek homecoming

ALL silver jubilarians of the Chiang Kai Shek High School Batch 1976 are invited to a special lunch affair today, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Hard Rock Café in Glorietta at the Ayala Center of Makati City.

For inquiries, please call 712-084.

Dahil po sa inyo, NUMBER ONE ang 100% gawang-Pinoy game show na GAME K N B?*

*Source: AGB TV Meter Mega Manila Household, 07 – 27 October 2001.

GAME K N B?
ME K N B?
New Timeslot 7:00pm

KAYA NGAYO'Y MAS SIKSIK NA SA EXCITEMENT AT PA-PREMYO!

LEVEL 1: ELIMINATIONS *

Fifteen (15) celebrity o sectoral contestants ang maglalaro sa bawa't tatlo hanggang limang (3 – 5) games na lalaruin every week.

Sa elimination round, ang bawa't contestant ay mayroong audience response system na ipe-press sa pagsagot sa series ng YES or NO, TRUE or FALSE or MULTIPLE CHOICE questions.
Automatically eliminated ang mga contestants na mali ang sagot.

Ang maximum number of questions para sa elimination round ay lima (5).

Dalawang (2) players lang ang matitira sa pagtatapos ng Elimination Round at bawa't isa ay mananalo ng P10,000.

LEVEL 2: FACE-OFF *

Ang dalawang (2) natirang players ay maghaharap sa isang (1) Face-Off Round.

Siyam (9) na squares sa game board ay may picture o icon na sagot sa tanong na babasahin ng host. Ang unang player na makaka-press ng buzzer ang mabibigyan ng unang chance na sumagot.
Ang unang maka-limang (5) tamang sagot sa siyam (9) na tanong ay mananalo ng P100,000 at lalaban sa solo round.

LEVEL 3: GO SOLO! *

Mayroong siyam (9) na squares sa game board na nagre-represent ng siyam na category.
Ang player ay pipili ng category sa game board. May tatlong (3) multiple choice questions sa bawa't category.
Para manalo, kailangang masagot ng player ang tatlo (3) sa limang (5) tanong sa bawa't round.
Sa pagtatapos ng bawa't round, papipiliin ang player kung itutuloy o ititigil ("walk away" option) na niya ang paglalaro.

Para makarating sa Million Round, kailangang makapanalo ang player ng tatlong (3) rounds.

Kung titigil na ang player sa paglalaro...
- after the 1st round, mananalo siya ng P100,000 at Dream Showcase.
- after the 2nd round, mag-uuwi siya ng P300,000 at Dream Showcase
- after the 3rd round, mayroon siyang P500,000 at Dream Showcase.

Kung matalo ang player sa alin mang Solo Round, P100,000 lamang ang maiuuwi niya.

LEVEL 4: ONE MILLION, HERE I COME!*

Mamimili lamang ng isa (1) sa tatlong (3) general topics ang player sa game board. Isang (1) katanungan lang ang kailangan niyang sagutin para manalo.

Pagkasagot ng player sa tanong, magkakaron ng "Tawaran Portion."
Tama o mali man ang sagot, kapag nag-walk away siya, mag-uuwi siya ng P100,000 plus the cash prize na nadagdag sa "Tawaran Portion."

Kung itutuloy niya ang paglalaro at tama ang sagot niya, kanya na ang Dream Showcase, mag-uuwi pa siya ng P1,000,000!

Ngunit kung mali ang sagot niya sa Million Round, balik sa P100,000 lamang ang mapapanalunan niya.

At dahil NUMERO UNO kayo sa puso namin, eto na ang sikreto para manalo ng milyon-milyong piso linggo-linggo!

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'Yan ang sikreto para maging milyonaryo!

Isang program title na lang ang pagpipilian para sa 6-letter combination: GAME K N B.*

1 Key in ABS to purchase the icon.

2 Key in your 6-LETTER COMBINATION from the program title: GAME KNB Ex: GKNBME

3 Key in your NAME and ADDRESS.

4 Send it to 2332

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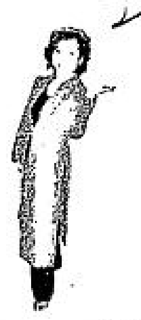
Only for GLOBE HANDYPHONE subscribers whose units can receive icons.


Every icon is worth P10.

Sample program icon:

At bawat 6-letter combination mo, pasok na pasok na sa 3-5 games na lalaruin every week! Mas malaki na ang chance mong manalo!

You are only allowed a maximum of 30 text entries per cellphone number/SIM card per week*

You will receive an acknowledgement message every time you text. Always record and keep note of it.

❶ Kung in order ang text sequence mo:*

1/2 Tnx sa pagbili ng logo, Juan! Ang entry mo ay natanggap 11/18/01, 600pm na may ack num 123456789. Isulat ang ack num. Valid ang entry mo sa Week7 (11/19/01 - 11/23/01). Watch GAMEKNB nxt week, Lunes - Biyernes, 700pm para malaman kung ikaw ay nanalo!

❷ Kung mali ang text sequence mo o wala kang 6-letter combination:*

1/2 Tnx sa pagbili ng logo! We did not receive any entry for GAMEKNB. Txt GAMEKNB to 2331 for instructions.

❸ Kung mali ang combination mo o mali ang game title na pinagpilian mo:*

1/2 Tnx sa pagbili ng logo, Juan! Invalid ang combination. Pumili ng 6-letters mula sa GAMEKNB. Pwedeng ulitin ang any letter. Txt GAMEKNB to 2331 for instructions.

❹ Kung nakalimutan mo ang name and address mo:*

1/2 Tnx sa pagbili ng logo! Invalid ang entry. Wala ang iyong pangalan at address. Txt GAMEKNB to 2331 for instructions.

❺ Kung hindi nag-umpisa sa ABS ang text mo:*

1/2 Tnx sa pagbili ng logo! Invalid ang entry. Mali ang keyword. Txt GAMEKNB to 2331 for instructions.

❻ Kung sobra ka na sa allowable maximum of 30 valid entries sent:*

1/2 Tnx sa pagbili ng logo, Juan! Hanggang 30 valid entries lang ang pwede bawat linggo. Sumali ulit sa susunod na Thursday.

2/2 Brought to you by: ABS-CBN.com. Per DTI-NCR 3304, Series of 2001. See posters, print ads or www.abs-cbn.com for details.

❼ Kung mag-tetext ka ng GAMEKNB HELP sa 2331, eto ang matatanggap mo:

1/3 Para makasali at maging GAMEKNB text partner, bumili ng ABS-CBN logo sa pagtext ng: ABS <space> <6-letter combination> <space> <name & address>. Ipadala sa 2332.

2/3 HUWAG MAG PAPADALA NG ENTRY SA 2331! Lahat ng entries ay dapat ipadala sa 2332. Kunin ang 6-letter combination sa salitang GAMEKNB. Pwedeng ulitin ang letter.

3/3 Ex. ABS GAMEEE Juan Cruz 8 First St. QC. Ipadala sa 2332. Makakakuha ka ng logo at ng acknowledgement number. Isulat ang matatanggap na acknowledgement number.

Laging i-check ang acknowledgment text kung anong week kasali ang entry mo. Nagpapalit ang week number tuwing Huwebes, 12:01 pm. Kaya sa Huwebes, 15 November 2001, 12:01 pm, pang-Week 8 na kasali ang entries na ipapadala mo.

Valid lang ang entry mo sa week na sinalihan mo! Basta hindi lampas sa 30 entries per cellphone number / SIM card ang ipinadala mo. Kung di nanalo, text na ulit sa susunod na linggo!

PANALO KA kung ang 6-letter combination na pinadala mo ay pareho sa combination na mare-reveal sa ending ng kahit anong game na nilaro sa linggong sinalihan mo!

Kung walang makakuha ng winning 6-letter combination, lahat ng entries for that week ay may chance manalo ng consolation prize na P20,000.

GKNB Helplines
Para malaman kung paano maging Game KNB? Text Partner: Text GAMEKNB HELP to 2331 o tumawag sa: Landline 730-1227 (toll-free for Greater Manila Area) Handyphone 227 (for all GLOBE-covered areas)

*** as approved by DTI-NCR**

GAME NA!

Per DTI-NCR permit # 3304 - series of 2001

ABS-CBN

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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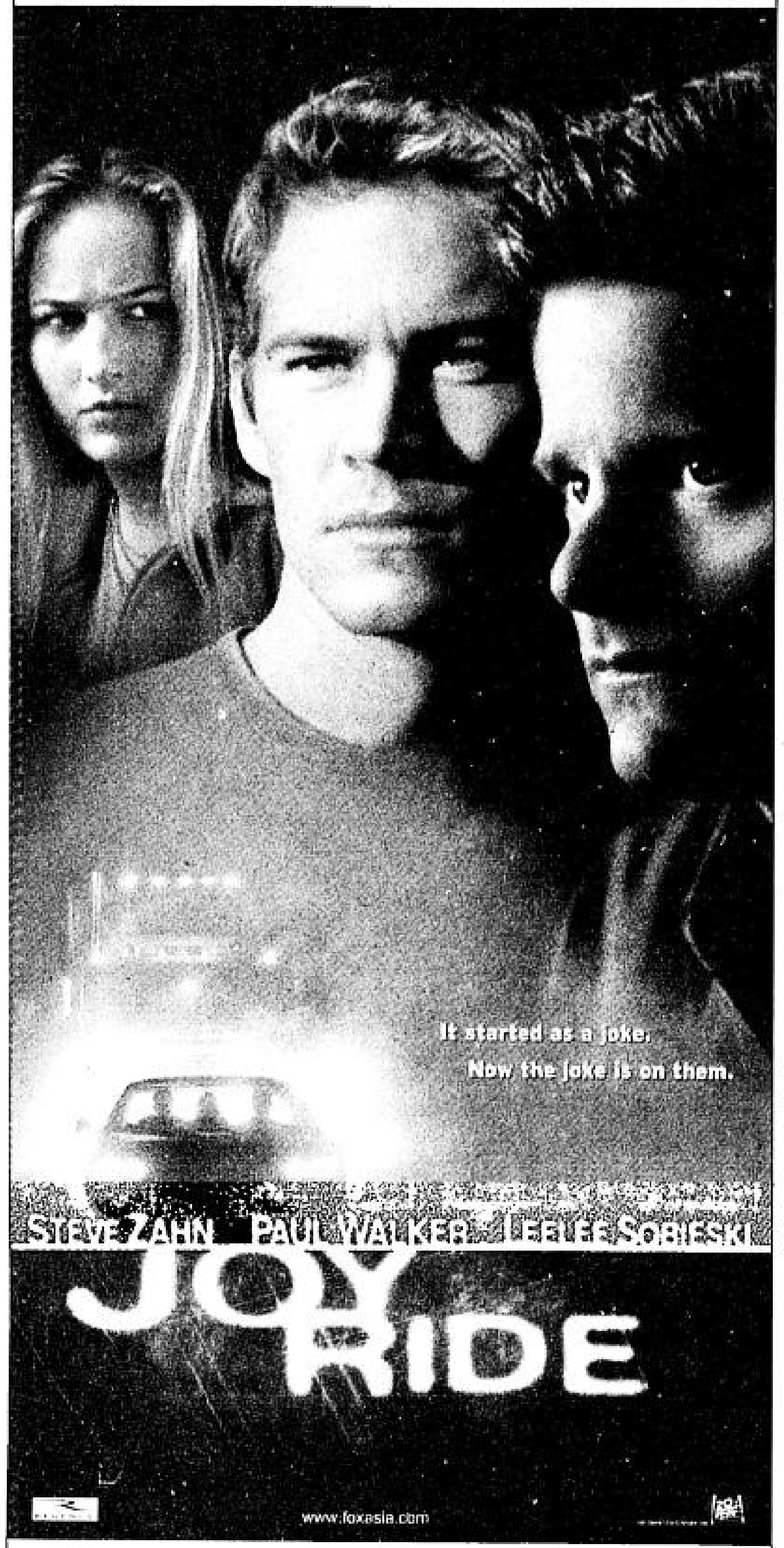
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OPENS NOV. 14

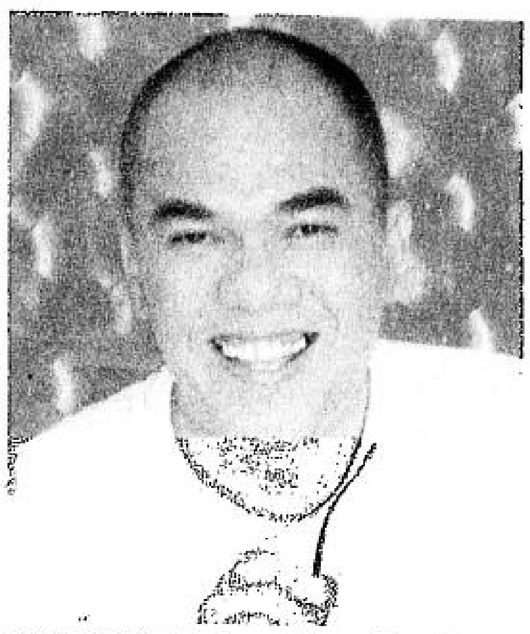
Boy Abunda asks questions only he dares to ask

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IS SEN. **RALPH Recto** afraid of his wife **Vilma Santos**? Does he really have two kids with another woman? Why does he have so much money?

These and other intriguing questions never before asked of Recto will be asked on the TV special "2001 Most Interesting Personalities," to be hosted by **Boy Abunda**.



INSPIRED by Barbara Walters, Boy Abunda interviews a variety of personalities, from superstars' husbands to non-homophobic soldiers.

Superstar's husband Recto shares a segment in the program with Sen. **Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan,** who will also talk about being married to megastar **Sharon Cuneta.**

Kiko, however, will discuss for the first time his beef against the Upsilon fraternity at the University of the Philippines and the reason he was kicked out of the organization.

"Before he became a senator, Kiko was non-committal about attending Upsilon events again," Abunda shares. "But now, Kiko is open to Upsilon invitations."

Recto and Pangilinan represent a new generation of politicians who are young, committed, idealistic and hardworking. In the TV special, they speak out and prove they deserve the votes they won to become senators.

"2001 Most Interesting Personalities" were chosen by a production team led by supervising producer **Chit Guer-rero,** executive producer **Ethel Espiritu** and Boy him

BOY/ A28

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STAR

THE LADY chose her films well, including Jeturian's "Sana Pagibig Na," where she was both victim and villain as the widowed mother of Gerald Madrid.

NIDA BLANCA

Scenes from a life of good acting

(First of two parts)

BY PAUL DAZA

NIDA Blanca's murder Wednesday morning will no doubt prompt fans and movie buffs to watch or re-watch her movies or TV shows.

REVIEW

If you want to be reminded of how versatile an actress Nida Blanca was, or if you want to see her act for the first time, here are reviews of two of her films, Jeffrey Jeturian's "Sana Pag-Ibig Na" and Rowell Santiago's "Luv Text," both of which may be rented at any good video store.

In addition to starring Nida, the two movies reviewed here have other things in common: They both got positive marks from film reviewers when they were shown theatrically, and both failed to connect with a blockbuster-sized audience.

Sana Pag-ibig Na (1998). This was the last film for which Nida won several acting plums from the local award-giving bodies. She deservedly won Best Actress for her portrayal of a widow who only learns after her husband's death that he was unfaithful to her. This multiple award-winning film also launched the directorial career of Jeturian, as it was one of the few "pito-pito" projects produced by Lily Monteverde that was actually noticed and awarded many accolades.

What's terrific about Nida's work here is that she gets to be both the victim and villain. She also gets to play some scenes for comedy, the rest for drama.

Unerring gifts

Indeed, scriptwriter Bing Lao and director Jeturian felt only Nida could have convincingly and sympathetically play Linda, a naïve woman who actually believed that her husband Yul (Chinggoy Alonso) was faithful to her throughout fortysomething years of marriage.

"Sana Pag-Ibig Na" has many scenes which showcase Nida's unerring gifts as a performer. There is the emotionally charged confrontation with her son (Gerald Madrid), when she discovers that he has befriended his dad's mistress (Angel Aquino). When this scene unreeled during the premiere at the Good Harvest Film Festival, the crowd reportedly erupted in spontaneous applause.

Jeturian regrets that Nida was not present that night to witness how warmly her performance was greeted by the crowd, especially during this scene.

The movie also gave Nida the opportunity to speak in a Visayan accent with Vangie Labalan in some scenes.

Other scenes that show Nida at her finest include the portion where her character is sobbing in the bathroom after she learns of her dead husband's infidelity. It's a far more controlled performance than we're used to in Filipino melodramas, relying more on facial expressions than on kilometric dialogue.

Favorite moment

My favorite Nida Blanca acting moment in "Sana Pag-Ibig Na" is the shot where Linda has to say the name of Yul's mistress at the school where he taught. Nida hits just the right note of seething anger and disguised contempt as she says the name "Karen Ybanez."

My one regret about "Sana Pag-Ibig Na" is that all the dialogue had to be dubbed. Cineastes would have had an even greater appreciation of the actress' craft if the filmmakers had used the actual vocalizations the performers used during a take, and not a sweetened version recorded weeks later in some dubbing studio.

(To be concluded)

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7	TRIP
8	THE ONE
9	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
10	KAMO

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2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

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5	TRIP
6	DOS EKIS
7	AMERICAN PIE 2

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1	DOWN TOEARTH
2	CLOSED
3	THE ONE
4	DOS EKIS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	CLOSED
8	TRIP

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	THE ONE
2	TRAINING DAY
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	DOS EKIS
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	TRIP

SM SUCAT 8294915

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2	DOS EKIS
3	THE ONE
4	TRIP

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2	THE ONE in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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4 GOLD (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE ONE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
8	DOS EKIS
9	TRIP
10	TRIP

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 2040
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	TRIP
2	JEEPERS CREEPERS
3	KAMO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
2	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
3	TRIP
4	DOS EKIS
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	THE ONE
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	THE ONE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DOS EKIS
2	FAST & FURIOUS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	TRIP
2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
3	THE ONE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TRIP
A	KAMO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	KAMO
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	TRIP
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
6	TRIP
7 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
8 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
9 (DOLBY)	JEEPERS CREEPERS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	THE ONE

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	TRIP
2	TRIP
3	TRIP
4 (SDDS)	THE ONE
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
8	GHOST OF MARS
9	DOS EKIS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5 (SDDS)	RESERVE
6	TRIP
7 (DOLBY)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
8	DOS EKIS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	TRIP
2	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5 (SDDS)	THE ONE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	THE ONE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TRIP

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KAMO
Lords	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
Jennet	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	TRIP

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	TRIP
2	KAMO
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	ROSARIO 18
2	TRIP
3 (DTS)	THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE BODY
2 (DTS)	TRIP
3 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
4	TRAINING DAY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	TRIP
2 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4	TRIP

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	TRIP
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
3	KAMO
4 (DTS)	TRIP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4	ROSARIO 18
5	SAKIM

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	SAKIM

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	SAKIM

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	HIYAS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	TRAINING DAY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TRIP
2 (DTS)	THE ONE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TRIP
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SAKIM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DOS EKIS
2	TRIP
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	HOLE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TRAINING DAY
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	THE ONE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

THX
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For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

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1 THX	THE ONE
2	THE ONE
3	TRIP
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	TRAINING DAY
8	LEGALLY BLONDE
9	DOWN TO EARTH
10	GHOST OF MARS

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	TRIP
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	TRIP
4	THE ONE
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	THE ONE

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	TRAINING DAY
3	DOS EKIS
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	THE BODY
6	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKES

SOON TO OPEN
METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SCORPIO NIGHTS 2 / NIGHT JOB
ODEON	THE ONE
ODEON-2	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
ROBEN	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KISS OF THE DRAGON / SPOT
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR-2	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TRIP
B	THE ONE
C	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	THE ONE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	KAMO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS
CINEMA-7	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-8	TRIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE ONE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-14	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-15	TRIP
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-2	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-5	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-6	THE ONE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Boy . . .

(From page A26)

self.

"Before we made the choices, we listed down the most powerful, controversial and successful personalities," Guerrero says. "This special is for everybody, from the A crowd to the E crowd."

Boy admits the concept for the TV special is not an original one. "It was inspired by **Barbara Walters'** 10 most interesting interviews which she does every year," he informs.

The 11 celebrities are featured in far-from-ordinary interviews. They reveal more because Boy managed to make them share their innermost thoughts and deepest feelings.

For instance, TV's weather man **Ernie Baron** tells viewers about the last time he cried.

Singer **Ayen Munji** shares what it was like to live a fairy-tale life when she became princess of Brunei. Ayen is now married to **Franco Laurel.** Even after her life as a royalty has ended, she still has a happy love life.

Rio Diaz-Cojuangco talks of her gift of a second life amid her battle with the Big C.

For the first time, singing "rivals" and pop idols **Martin Nievera** and **Gary Valenciano** are featured in a back-to-back interview not about their respective careers but about their innermost thoughts on fidelity, sex and love.

The flamboyant **Tessa Prieto-Valdes,** who never fails to make heads turn everywhere she goes, tells how it is to be in a league of her own when it comes to fashion, style and originality.

But the most interesting subject for Boy is Col. **Victor Corpuz.**

"He's funny and calculating but after a while he starts to open up when he found his comfort zone," Boy discloses. "He talks about his wife, his first crush, how many people he has killed, the present state of Philippine military and what he thinks about gays in the military. Surprisingly, he is not homophobic."

Boy explains why McCann Erickson's chief executive officer **Emily Abrera** is included in the roster of interesting personalities.

"She is the first woman CEO of McCann," Boy says. "We based our choice on her achievements. We want to connect her to the public via the work she has done. She has an inspiring story. Did you know that **Tessie Tomas** was the one who hired her to work as McCann creative director?"

The special has a team of writers (**Senedy Que, Ann Torres, Dolly Ann Carvajal**) and directors for the different segments (**Bobby Garcia, Abner Mercado, Alco Guerrero, Luigi Santiago, Jojo Saguin**).

"I didn't do this alone even if I'm the one seen on-cam doing the interviews," Boy points out. "Everything is collaborative. We all worked hard for this."

"2001 Most Interesting Personalities" airs tonight, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m., on ABS-CBN.

'Digital LG Quiz show' finals held today

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT 10 a.m. today on GMA 7, the award-winning program for students, "Digital LG Quiz Show," is holding its final showdown for the current TV season, with a million-peso college scholarship fund at stake, among other prizes.

Competing are four bright high school students who have emerged as quarterly winners in the hotly contested and popular quiz tilt.

The first quarter champion is **Bojit Herrera** from the Philippine Science High School. He plans to become either a cardiologist or a genetic engineer.

Andrew John Lena, a student at the Manila Science High School, topped the show's second quarter. He wants to become a computer engineer.

The third quarter champ, **Jayjay Attenza**, is from the Mary Immaculate Parish Special School. He sees himself working as a computer instructor after he finishes college.

The final berth in the finals belongs to fourth quarter winner **Jeremane Edward Barsana**. He wants to become a doctor.

All four finalists are bright and quick-thinking, so an exciting competition for the top prize looms. A big audience of students all over the country is expected to view the championship show, aside from the quarterly champions' friends, schoolmates and families, who will be rooting for their respective best bets.

We like the "Digital LG Quiz Show" because it provides a welcome relief from other programs for young viewers that emphasize the wrong traits and values.

Many shows create excitement over ephemeral trends and shallow attributes, encouraging young people to become insecure herd-followers.

On the other hand, quiz shows for students generate excitement over intelligence and educational achievement, providing other youths with good role models for their own studies.

Unlike some other quiz programs that tend to be too scholarly, "Digital LG Quiz Show" is packaged as a fun, visually-lively show, and its look and style add considerably to its appeal and impact.

Its digitally generated graphics and varied portion formats sustain its young audience's interest. We also like the audience quiz at the end of each show because it generates involvement from a wider pool of students than each telecast's "official" contestants.

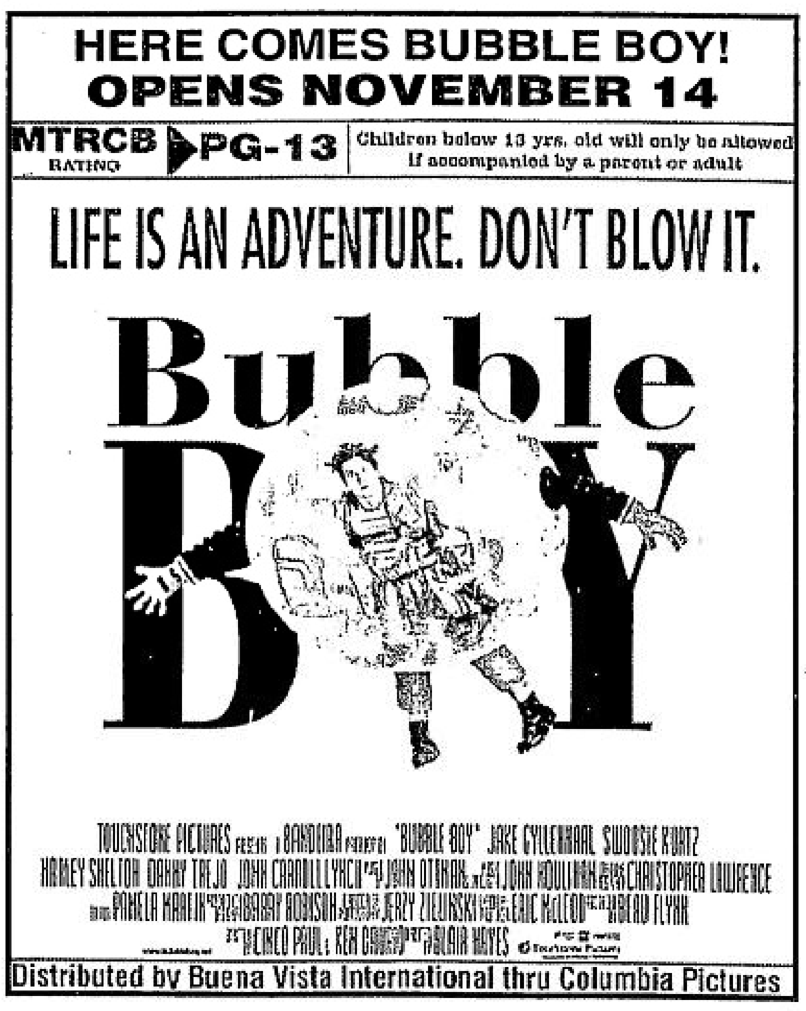
This combination of plus points has made the show a standout in its field, hence the awards it won in the recent Star Awards for Television. The show is directed by **Pat Perez**, written by **Bong Barrameda**, and hosted by **Paolo Bediones** and **Regine Tolentino**.

Sharon's new video

SHARON Cuneta's video of the song "Where's the Good in Goodbye," will be launched on Channel 2's "ASAP" at noontime today, Nov. 11.

The song is the carrier single of Sharon's new album, "All I Ever Want," for BMG Records Pilipinas. In "Where's the Good in Goodbye," Sharon performs with pianist **Jim Brickman**.

Seven of the songs in Sharon's new album are composed by **Ryan Cayabyab**.

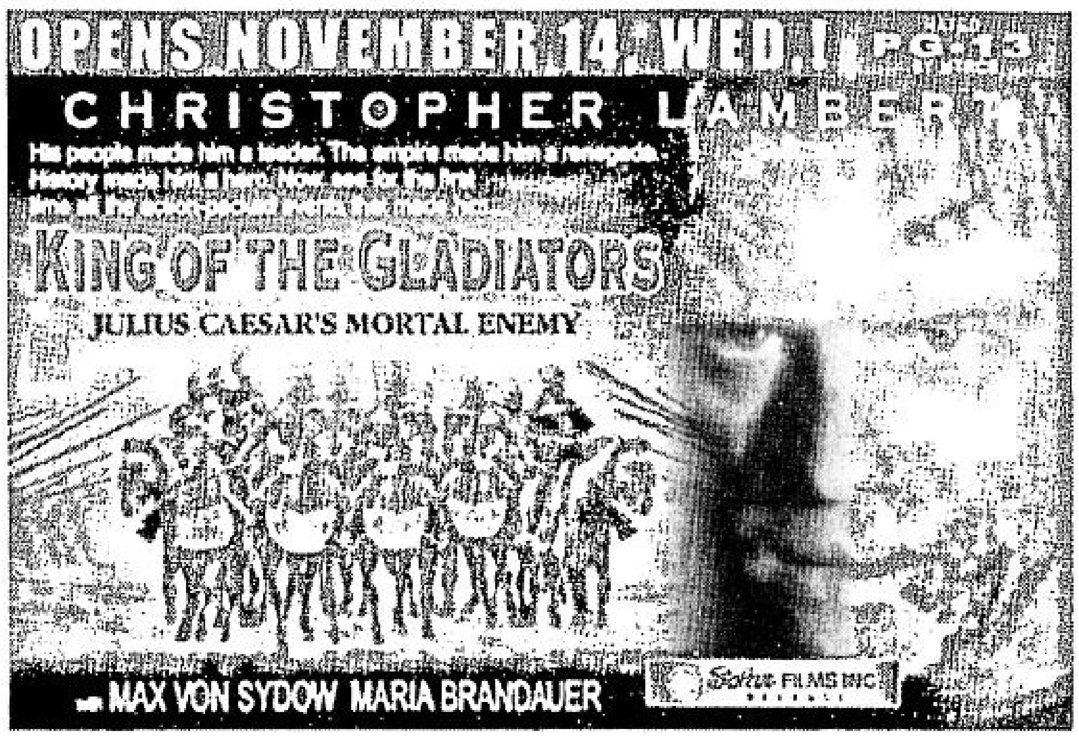

HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!
OPENS NOVEMBER 14

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.

Bubble Boy

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures
TOUCHSTONE PICTURES "BUBBLE BOY" JAKE GYLLENHAAL SWOOSIE KURTZ


OPENS NOVEMBER 14, WED.! PG-13
CHRISTOPHER LAMBERT
His people made him a leader. The empire made him a renegade. History made him a hero. Now, see for the first
KING OF THE GLADIATORS
JULIUS CAESAR'S MORTAL ENEMY
with MAX VON SYDOW MARIA BRANDAUER
Solar FILMS INC

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THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
SONY.COM/THEONE

All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

MARIAH CAREY
glitter
www.glittermovie.com

From 'orphan' to pop superstar

Mariah in a heartwarming rags-to-riches music drama

Pop music legend Mariah Carey makes her major feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' GLITTER, an emotional and heartwarming drama with music featuring her hits "Never Too Far" and "Loverboy."

GLITTER is the story of a young singer, Billie Frank, who overcomes a troubled childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

OPENS NOV 21!

Do You Believe in Destiny?
Make it your destiny to watch
the perfect date movie
SERENDIPITY
starring John Cusack & Kate Beckinsale @
THE PERFECT DATE MOVIEHOUSE
AYALA CINEMAS
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& GET A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE YOUR DREAM DATE: Room Accommodation in Oakwood, Regine's Concert for 2 @ OnStage, Dinner for 2 in TGIFridays, Entrance for 2 in Enchanted Kingdom & Movie Tickets for 2 for every 2 SERENDIPITY tickets purchased.
FreshBurst LISTERINE Oakwood SKYFILMS

DESTINY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR
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SERENDIPITY

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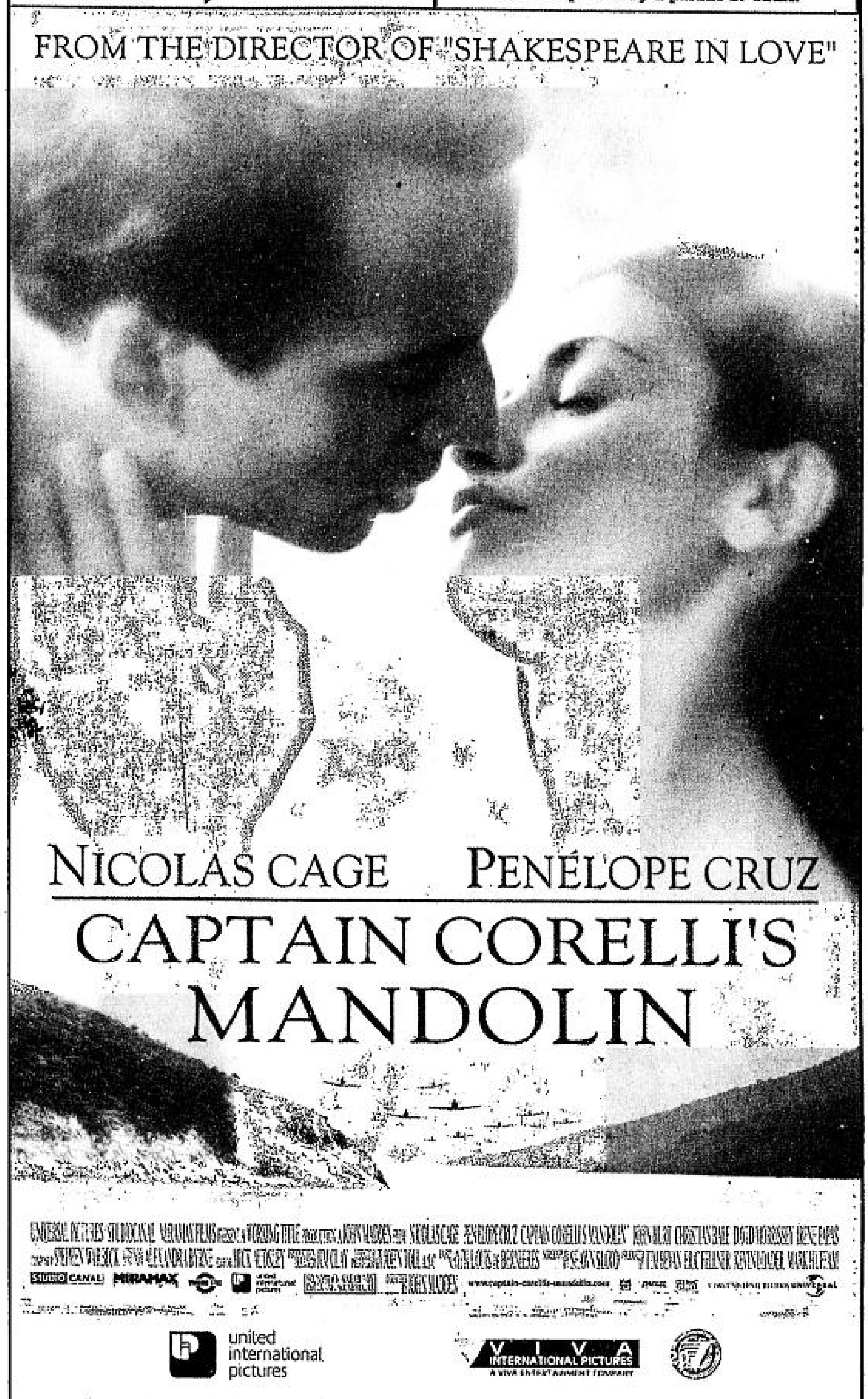
POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

DOWN TO EARTH - P 13 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	JEEPERS CREEPERS - R 18 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	TRAINING DAY - R 18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	THE ONE - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE"
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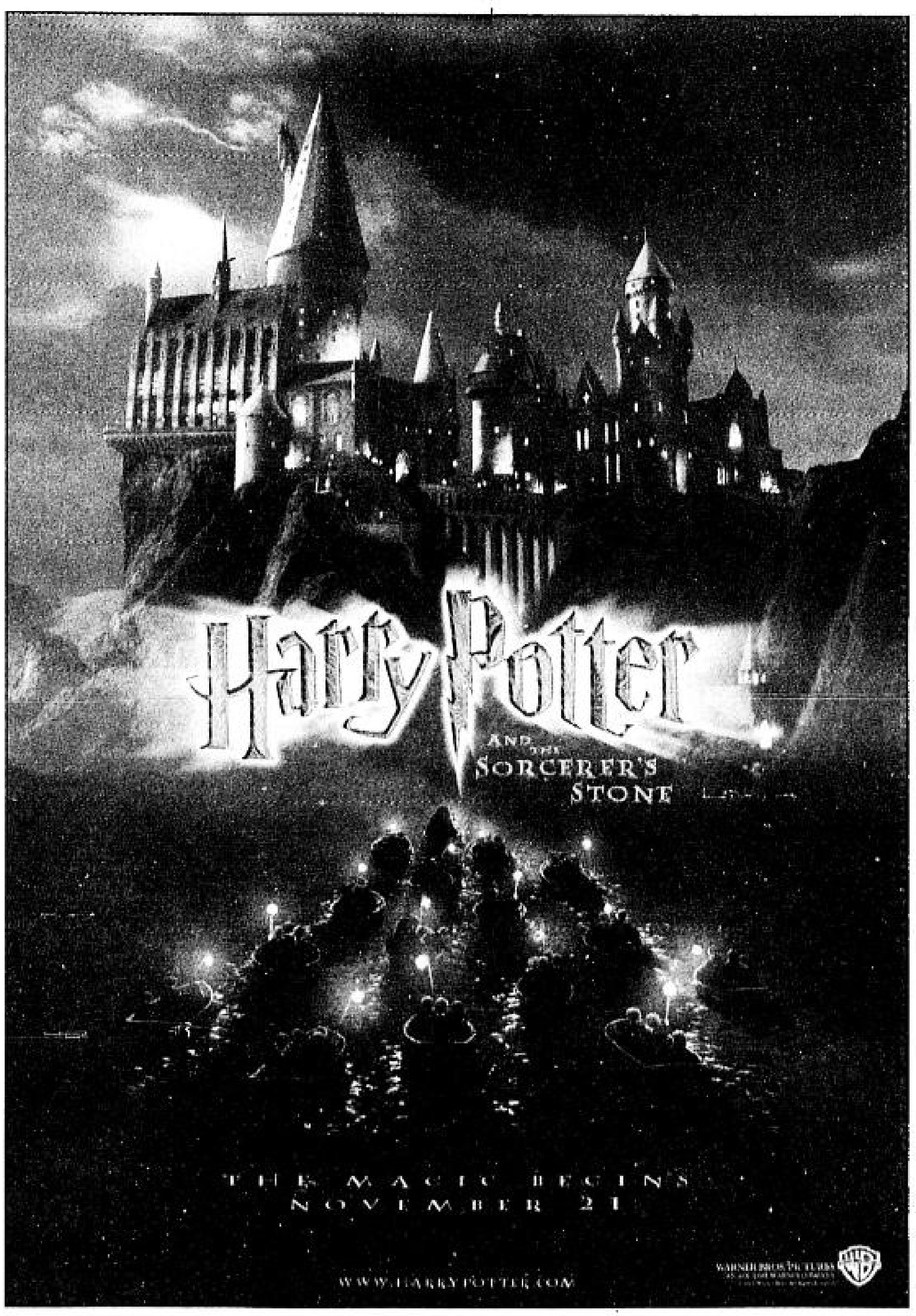
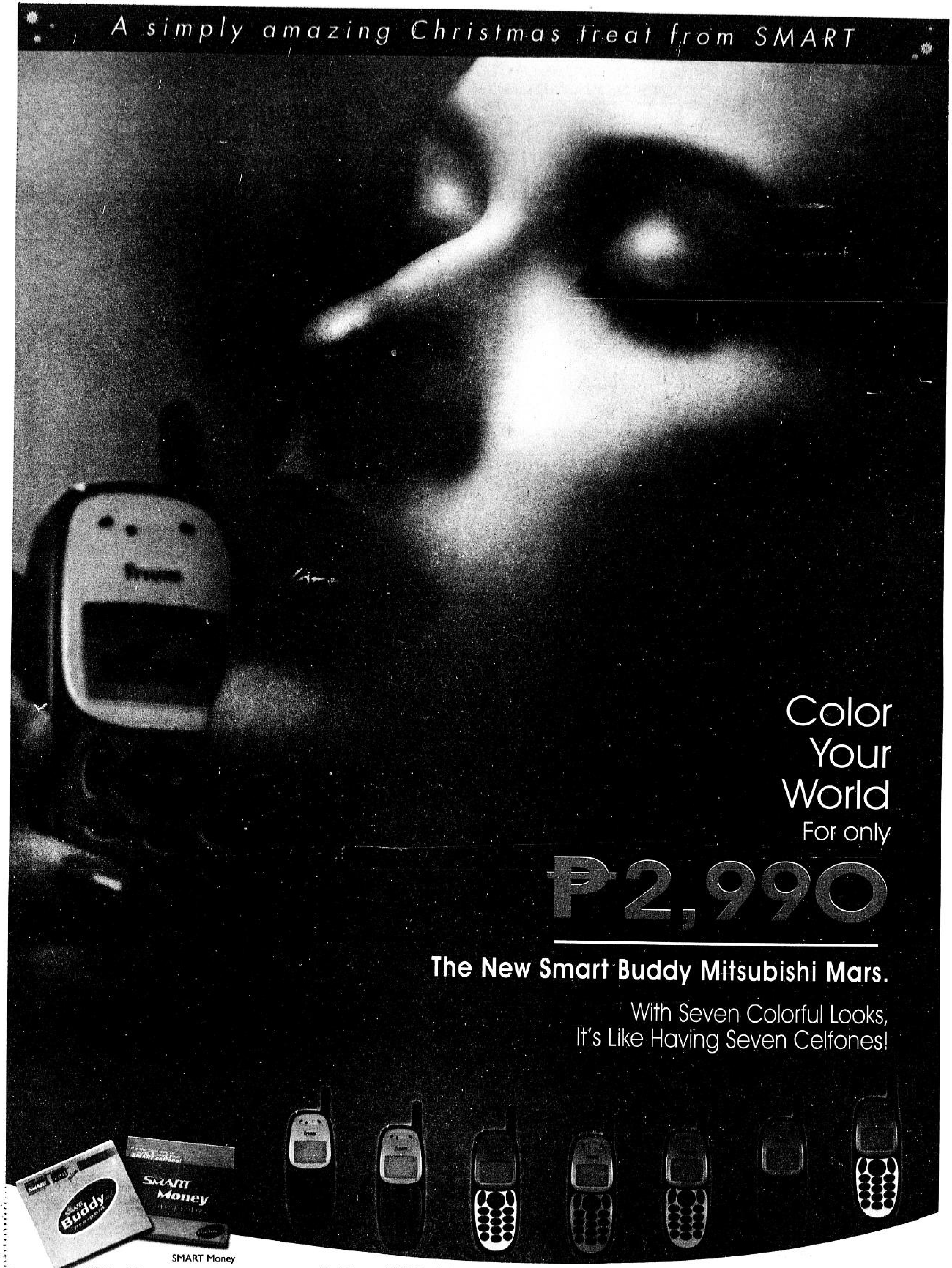
CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
OPENS NOV.14



A simply amazing Christmas treat from SMART



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SMART Money

SMART zed plus

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Key Features of Mitsubishi Trium Mars:

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RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Keeping entrepreneurship a strictly family affair

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

FIRST it was a husband and wife hobby. Then it became a mother-in-law—daughter-in-law thing. Then the son joined; and finally, the only daughter joined.

What happens if you mix this group, and one-of-a-kind old and new Asian home furnishings? A successful business that thrives on relationships.

Old Asia, the shop in Shangri-La Plaza and Rockwell, selling house decors from all over Asia, started in the house of Pachot Sipin-Mapa and husband Cornelio "Toto."

In the late '80s Toto's job entailed a lot of travel, and Pachot, a very stylish woman as her children describe her, and an art collector, saw the opportunity of bringing in Asian furniture, antiques and curios in the country, which nobody was doing at that time.

After about five years, it was proving to be more than just a sideline. In the beginning Pachot would only bring in a few boxes of her precious "finds." After a while, she found herself dealing with brokers because the shipments came in containers already.

To establish a "face," Old Asia opened its first gallery at the SM Megamall in December of 1993.

Daughter-in-law

Two years prior to this, Pachot's daughter-in-law, Monette, had just quit as a branch manager of Urban Bank to focus on her only daughter. She ventured into entrepreneurship with a clothes line dress shop, called Teodora.

KEEPING/ B2

CARMINA Mapa-del Rosario combines marketing and a clothes shop, Jojo Mapa is creative director and an interior designer, Monette Ventura-Mapa manages the finance and is dabbling in design.

LEONISA L. Ferreras, GSACC general manager, assumes the job of an accountant, bank manager and counselor rolled into one.

₱222-seed grows into a sturdy ₱81-M tree

BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GUBAT, Sorsogon—A cooperative here, organized by parishioners and the parish priest of St. Anthony of Padua 37 years ago, is no doubt a success, given its average growth of at least P2 million a year.

Named in honor of the patron saint of this town, the Gubat St. Anthony Credit Cooperative (GSACC) made a milestone in the cooperative movement by becoming an P80.77-million enterprise that it is now from its original paid-up capital of only P222.

Unlike many cooperatives that have sprouted like mushrooms all over the country, the church-based GSACC, which was founded on April 8, 1964, has strictly depended on the members' collective resources for 25 years and shunned loans from external sources to avoid an artificial capital build-up.

Most important, its founders and present officers have undeniably given their selflessness, unconditional service and integrity to the general membership.

"There has never been a time in its entire existence when this cooperative suffered loss of confidence," said Carolina Escueta, a member since 1968 and now the coop secretary.

Difference

The difference between the GSACC and the other cooperatives is obvious. Most cooperatives these days are organized as part of government projects or "implementation realities" of funds some international funding agencies have granted to local non-government organizations or government agencies.

Escueta compared GSACC to an impoverished child that grew to be a successful adult because he acquired the best lessons of life and the guidance from the Church.

Msgr. Magencio Rey, then the parish priest of St. Anthony of Padua, founded the GSACC with the help of Bro. Augusto Mier.

GSACC's organization was a response to the call of Bishop Arnulfo Arcilla of the Diocese of Sorsogon to form church-based coops in all parishes during his incumbency.

Of the 16 parishes in Sorsogon, GSACC is the lone church-based coop that has not only survived but also made an outstanding contribution to the cooperative movement in Bicol today.

Aside from several awards and recognitions it earned, the GSACC is a favorite subject of study on cooperative development and management.

Struggle

But like other endeavors in an uncertain economic situation, the GSACC has struggled through great difficulties with just several hundreds of pesos as capital to start with.

Fortunately, all of these have been successfully hurdled and, what followed is its unhampered march to success.

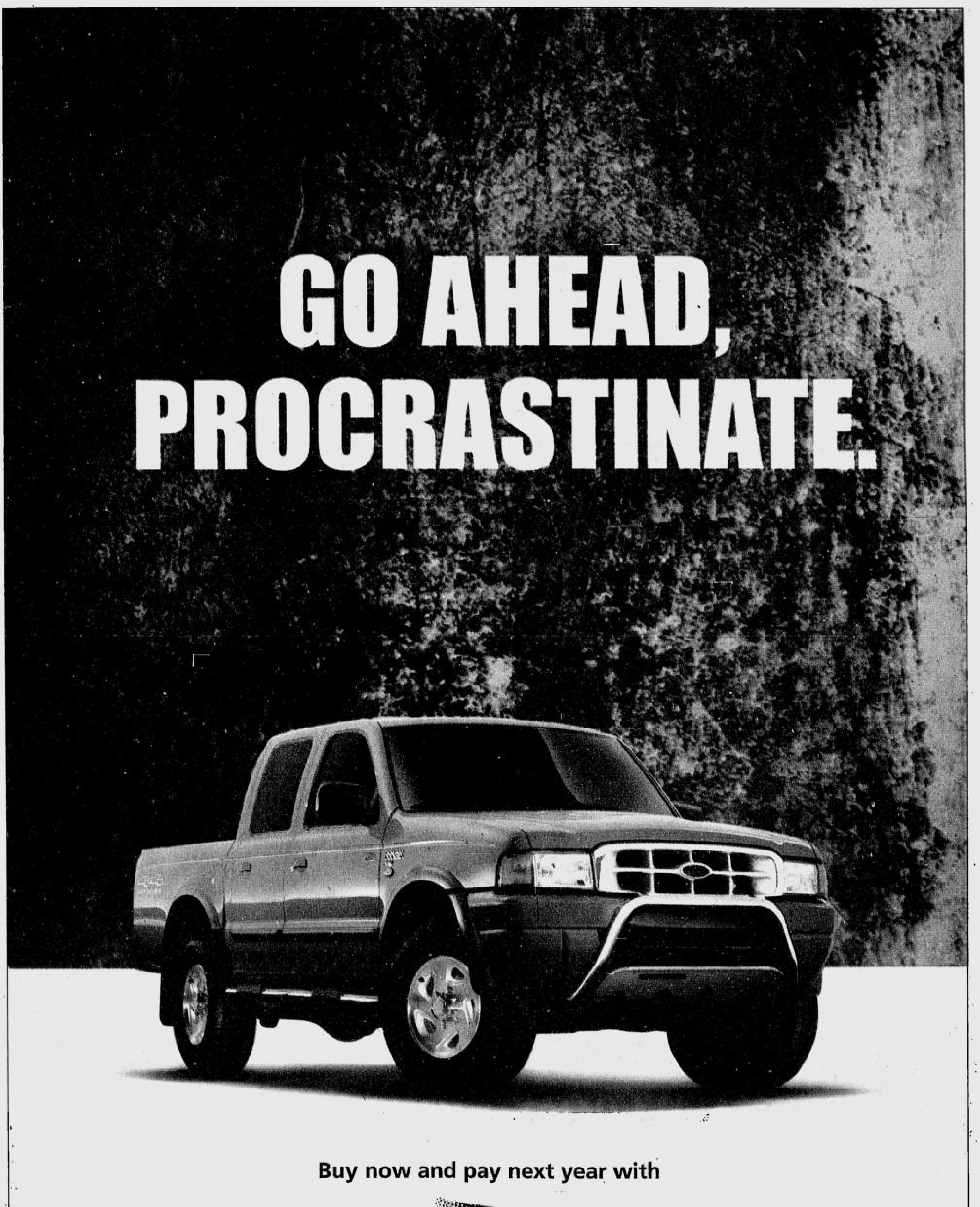
Escueta said the most serious problem the cooperative encountered, which had threatened its survival, was when the record of delinquency in payments reached some 83 percent of the total loans extended to its members after Typhoon Welming hit the town in the late 1960s.

But she said the GSACC had overcome the delinquency problem through painstaking advocacy work among the members, visitations and other ways of encouraging the members to pay their debts in the most convenient way.

She said the coop decided to condone the interests and penalties until every member recovered from the losses the typhoon had wrought on their livelihood.

"Instead of folding up, the officers mustered enough courage to carry on, foot by foot, inch by inch, until the finances of the cooperative gradually recovered. There's really no substitute for determi-

P222-SEED/ B2



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Hollywood gets set for Beverly Hills makeover

LOS ANGELES—While there's no shortage of facelifts in nearby Beverly Hills, once glamorous Hollywood has needed a major makeover for years. And this week, the doctor is in the house.

On Friday, Hollywood unveils its $615 million retail and entertainment complex called "Hollywood & Highland," and city leaders hope it will restore the famed Hollywood Boulevard to its old glory the same way New York revamped Times Square.

"Every year, 24 million (people) visit Los Angeles and 10 million visit Hollywood. I want to make sure all 24 million have Hollywood on their itinerary," recently elected Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn said on Wednesday.

Well, not so fast, Mr. Mayor.

Hollywood & Highland's developers, at Trizec Hahn Corp., reckon the new development will hike that 10 million figure up to 13 million. Still, a 30-percent jump in the first year is a figure any box office watching movie mogul would appreciate.

But the big boost for the city and the developers will come if all those visitors stick around for more than 15 minutes—time enough to sink their feet into Harrison Ford's footprints outside Graumann's Chinese Theater—and spend money.

The important thing, said Lee Wagman, president of Trizec Hahn Development Corp., is "who the visitors are, how long they stay, and what they are doing when they get here."

Over the past several decades, Hollywood's reputation in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s as a playground for movie stars had faded into a street lined with tawdry tattoo parlors, adult book stores and tacky tourist traps selling everything faux from fake Oscars to fake autographs.

A changing scene

It was no longer a place where celebrities could be seen sipping Martinis inside swanky restaurants. That scene had shifted west to Beverly Hills, Brentwood and Malibu.

But all that could soon change with Hollywood & Highland and a host of other new projects going up along Hollywood Boulevard and the equally famous Sunset Boulevard to the south.

And as important as anything to the entertainment capital of the world, the new Kodak Theatre inside the complex will be the home for the Oscars—the film industry's top honors—starting in March 2002.

Construction began on the 8.7 acre site over five years ago, backed by $90 million in public money from local governments and the rest kicked in by private interests.

The development has three basic areas.

"Babylon Court" is designed to look like the movie set of D.W. Griffith's classic film "Intolerance," with two 33-foot (10-meter) elephants mounted on columns high overhead.

The central mall lies around the Court with restaurants and shops ranging from Versace to Gap, Bebe to Banana Republic, Luxe Lingerie, Sports Americana and Sephora.

There is the Kodak theater with its Awards Walk where the stars will surely parade in tuxedos and gowns as they head for the Academy Awards and the Grand Ballroom where they may frolic afterward.

Finally, the sidewalks around Hollywood & Highland have been lined with flashy movie billboards and brightly lit signs including one that will feature scrolling headlines from showbiz paper, The Hollywood Reporter, much like the signs in Times Square carry the latest business news.

Jobs and taxes

"This isn't Disneyland, and we never wanted it to be Disneyland," said Wagman, referring to fact that the center is supposed to increase traffic both during the day and at night, as adults look for places to eat and drink.

The city hopes the Hollywood & Highland development, which will create about 2,400 new jobs, will bring in $7.7 million in new tax revenues annually and $22 million in new spending to businesses around it.

Indeed, several major new projects are underway including a $100 million shopping complex around the famous "Cinerama Dome" movie theater on Sunset Boulevard, and a $120 million retail and residential development nearby.

Mann's Chinese theater next to Hollywood & Highland has been restored to its original name, Graumann's, its facade has been cleaned and detailed meticulously and six new, modern theaters have been added.

And the old Max Factor cosmetics building, a classic art deco structure around the corner, has undergone a $5 million facelift and houses the Hollywood History Museum with dresses worn by Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis Presley's "stained robe" and even Roddy McDowell's "powder room."

Donelle Dadigan, the museum's owner, tells stories about finding old Max's secret safe with only a jar of mysterious powder left inside. Then there's the one about the "rough and rowdy cowboy" who used to come through the backdoor to have his wig repaired in a windowless room.

When the name John "Duke" Wayne is mentioned, Dadigan only smiles with her lips as tight as a Beverly Hills surgeon. She's not telling who wore that wig. Some things may change in Hollywood, and others, well, it is Hollywood, after all.

Reuters

Keeping . . .

(From page B1)

She and her mother-in-law shared a little apartment for their businesses. They went about their businesses separately albeit under the same roof.

When Pachot decided to open in Megamall store, she asked Monette, who had been tired of her clothes business, to join her.

The two worked well together as Monette says her mother-in-law does not "meddle in your personal stuff."

Having a management background, Monette was put in charge of the finances. She was made sales director at Old Asia, and she personally knows most of the store's clients. She has put into good use the very good customer relation practices she learned when she was with the bank and this expanded Old Asia's customer base.

In the first year of operations, Old Asia reached gross sales of P16M. The following year the business grew by 60 percent.

In 1996, Old Asia opened another branch in Glorietta in Makati. Two years after, the Shangri-La branch replaced Megamall. And most recently, it opened a branch in Rockwell.

Son joins, too

In 1994, Pachot's son, Jose Luis or "Jojo," joined the family business.

With a background in IT (he worked at Suntrade Corp. until 1994 where he left his post as EDP) and a passion for architecture, having taken courses in it, Jojo put his artistic talent into good use at Old Asia.

Jojo's main responsibility is to assist in the product selection and development. In the last seven years, Jojo's contribution helped grow the business into what it is today.

Jojo says he had reached a crossroad in his life before joining the family business. He was part owner of Suntrade but after a while he and his partners decided to pursue other interests.

By that time he had made a good recovery in his investments.

He decided to join Old Asia as its creative director. Recently he finished a two-year course in design at the Philippine School of Interior Design although he is already a professional designer.

Jojo, who is married to Aleth Ocampo, one of the owners of the Sari-Sari clothes shops, is the one tasked to make the stores and its interiors look attractive but not intimidating.

Third addition

The last family member to join is Carmina Mapa-del Rosario, who worked with Ogilvy and Mather, an advertising agency for eight years and was already a group account director when she left.

"I left because I said to myself if I do not leave now I will regret not pursuing this decision," she says.

For a time, Carmina had been toying with taking the entrepreneurial route. And she realized she could only pursue this if she quit her regular job.

She recently created a line of lounging clothes or *pambahay* called Lounging Lizard. She has two outlets now—along Makati Ave. in a place called Third Floor, beside a club called Orange; and in Souk in Ortigas Ave.

She describes both shops as carrying eclectic things. (Souk means market in Africa.)

When she quit, her mother invited her to join Old Asia "to fill in the gap between Monette and Jojo. I do the marketing. I try to fix operations, the data base, the inventory management."

She is also involved in the pricing, merchandising and purchasing/developing new products.

Lately, too, she has been her mother's travel companion.

The three children are devoted to their work in Old Asia and report to work everyday. But they each pursue other interests.

Dealing with conflicts

They admit conflicts rise along the way when decisions have to be made. Usually each has his or her own idea but in the end majority wins.

"If there is no majority, mom decides," says Monette.

"Besides, if there's no devil's advocate, it's boring," adds Carmina.

The fact that Monette was a childhood friend helped a lot in the harmonious relationship of the group. They are all comfortable with each other plus each respects each other's competence.

"Monette's strength is her hold on clients. Her training in the bank helped her—remembering their names, birthdays," shares Carmina.

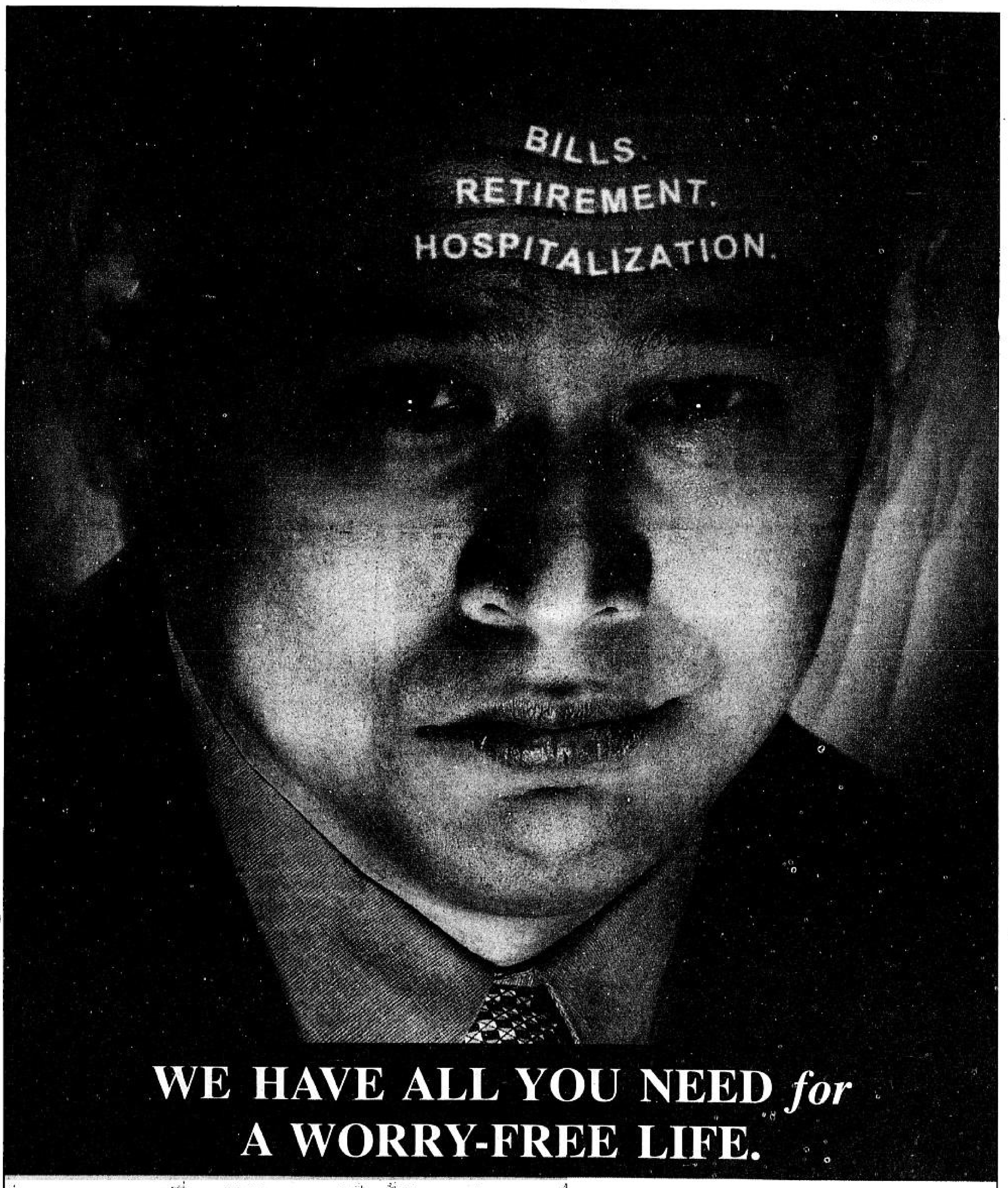
They admit that their market over the years has largely been the A-B market. The reason they transferred the Megamall shop to Shangri-La was due to the observation that their market was no longer going to the mall.

At that time Shangri-La was pursuing an aggressive marketing effort and positioning themselves as the place for the A market.

Prior to the Shangri-La store, Glorietta was opened in 1996. But this year it was closed in favor of Rockwell.

The group feels that locating in a mall attracts the impulse buyers, which could be a big group. They admit that when people saw their success, many wanted to get into the market and have also opened home shops.

The crisis has affected their business although they were still able to chalk up gross sales of P25 million last year.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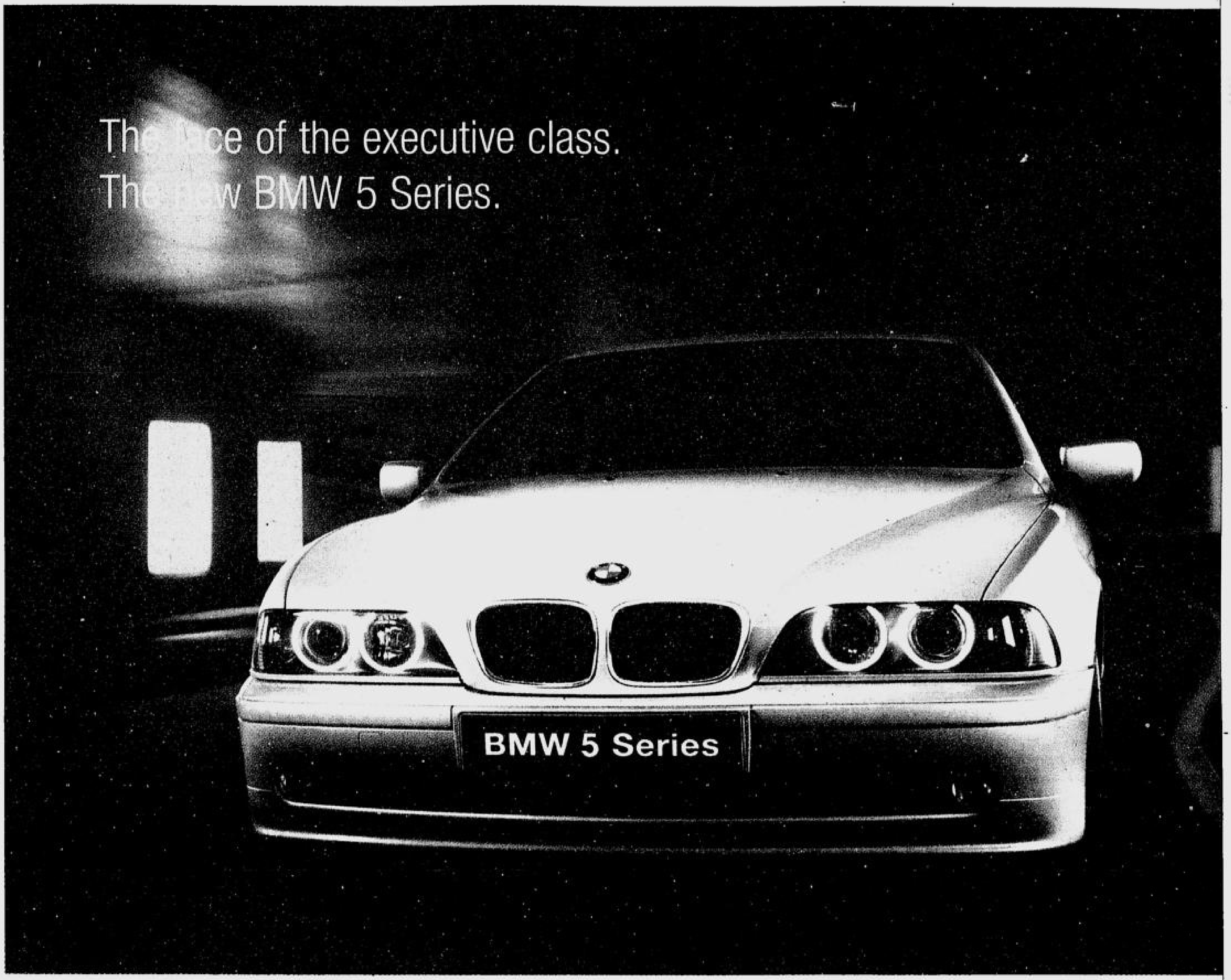

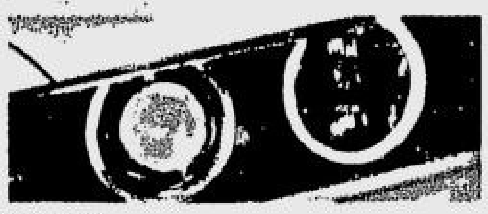
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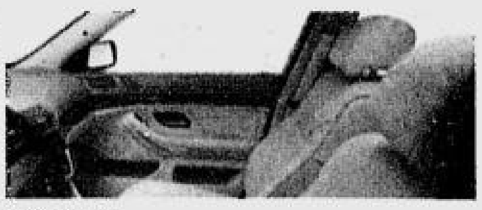
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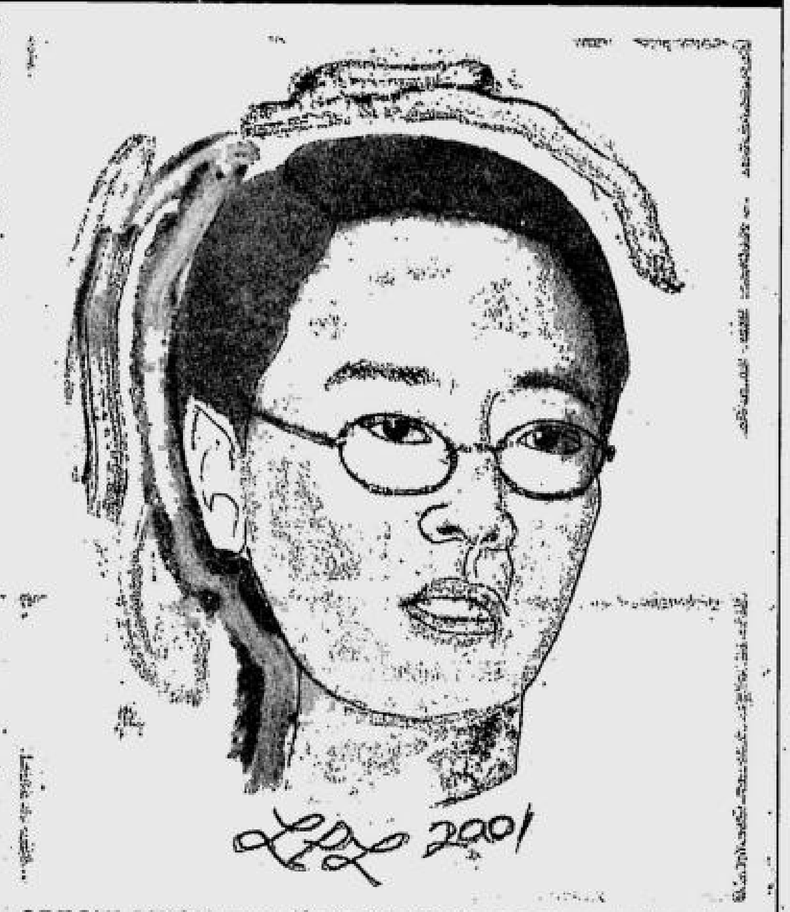
IN YOUR FACE BY L. P. LEVISTE



SPECULATION was rife in the business community when Alfonso "Tito" Yuchengco III stepped down as executive vice chair and CEO of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.
Is it sibling rivalry in the works as some suggest? Did his father, Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, really boot him out?

No columbarium yet

A GROUP of officers of the Armed Forces has filed a complaint barring a group of companies led by 7RD Realty Inc. of businessman Rafael Dizon Jr. from putting up a six-story cemetery inside Fort Bonifacio in Taguig.

In a letter, the AFP Officers Village Association Inc. told the INQUIRER that the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board had prevented 7RD Realty, Ross System International Inc. and Riverhead Property Management Inc. from constructing a P600-million "columbarium"—a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary remains—and a church inside the AFP Officers Village.

"It is not true that construction of the Magnificat began on Oct. 15 this year," Brig. Gen. Rosalino Alquiza (ret.), AFPOVAI vice chair, said. "In fact, there has been no construction yet."

Alquiza said HLURB's field office in Metro Manila denied 7RD Realty's application for a development permit "on the ground that a columbarium is not included in the list of permitted uses within a residential area as well as the board's model zoning ordinance." 7RD Realty appealed.

The AFPOVAI then filed a complaint against 7RD Realty. The HLURB's field office in Metro Manila dismissed this complaint. The AFPOVAI appealed, and on Sept. 14 the HLURB's board of commissioners issued an order restraining 7RD Realty from proceeding with the construction of its columbarium. *Raul C. Dancel*

A 'roundtable discussion' by CEOs on business ethics

"Paragons"
By Alfred A. Yuson
FINEX, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

CORPORATE or business ethics—like ethics, in general—is a riveting subject. You confront an act, and decide whether that act is *right, wrong*—or *indifferent.* Of course, that ushers in a lively discussion on the gray areas—from white lies to situational ethics, when the end is supposed to justify the means.

For example, regarding telling a white lie, Dietrich Bonhoeffer—in a book simply titled "Ethics"—advanced the theory that one should defer to the "higher truth."

He cited an instance when a child asks his teacher this pained question: "Teacher, is it true that my mother is a prostitute?" The teacher's reply: "No, my child, your mother is a loving virtuous woman."

To this Bonhoeffer commented that the teacher is upholding the "higher truth" of the child's young mind and his future.

Close to home and to something contemporary, the book, "Paragons"—subtitled "23 CEOs on Corporate Ethics"—confronts ethics in the workplace, in CEO suites and wood-panelled boardrooms.

But the issue remains as sharply elemental as "simply a matter of right or wrong," according to Nicasio I. Alcantara, chair of Petron Corporation, and one of the featured CEOs in the book.

Ricardo S. Pascua, president of Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation, steers clear of corporate lingo ("corporatese," as they say), and pictures to us a dilemma: "A gun is put to your head and you are asked either to pay up or they would blow you away. You have two choices: both of them morally acceptable. You can decide to be a martyr if you are called to be one, but if it's acceptable to you to get out of the danger by paying the fee, that's okay too."

How would Bonhoeffer resolve that?

The beauty of ethics is it truly gives the decision-maker the "free moral space," according to the authors of "Ties That Bind" (*Executive Read*, Jan. 7, 2001), who introduced the social contracts approach to business ethics.

They, in fact, used the word "hypernorms". These are fundamental principles (like truth telling, freedom, respect for human dignity) to which "corporate norms" (company codes of conduct) must be subsumed.

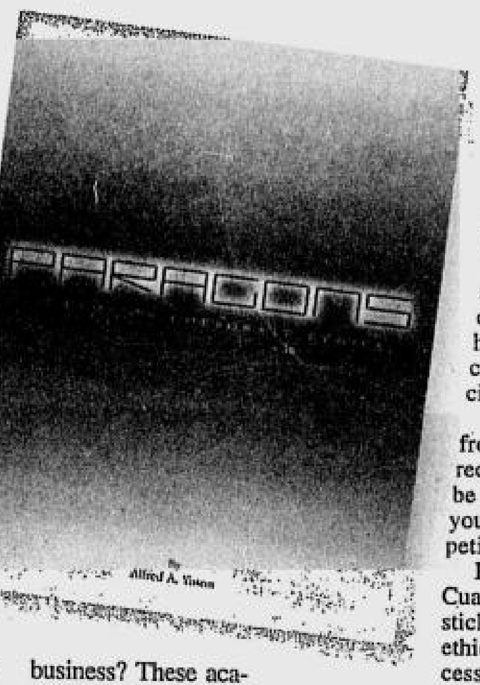
Speaking of "free moral space," that is exactly what you feel when you listen to CEOs speak about their decision to place upon themselves rules of conduct. And such freedom is best appreciated in a climate of free enterprise—or capitalism's "engine": profit.

In the author's introduction of the author, he triggers an engaging discussion on profit, "Obsession with profit is a self-defeating proposition." Then, elsewhere in the book, Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres SJ, and president of Ateneo de Manila University, gives an enlightened view of the profit motive:

"It is important for a company to be profitable, because if you are not profitable, if you are losing, there is not much you can do. You cannot pay your employees well. You cannot do anything for your community. You cannot be a good citizen. You cannot put in anti-pollution measures. You're going to cut corners because you are losing."

Management guru Peter Drucker says volumes to agree with Fr. Nebres on the social value of profit.

But what is the ultimate good for business? These academics have a way of distilling otherwise murky ideas.



Listen to Fr. Tamerlane R. Lana OP, president of the University of Santo Tomas: "The ultimate standard that determines whether a conduct or behavior is appropriate or not is the good of the human being . . . and the ultimate goal of all corporate endeavors is the good of the human person."

When one talks ethics, one invariably raises the issue of integrity. The word has been so overused that what we need now is go back to the root of such word. Thankfully, the president of De La Salle University, Brother Rolando Dizon, has a ready answer:

"Integrity has at its root the notion of wholeness of self. Being whole means that, at the center of one's being, you have this core which gives you an identity, a knowledge of who you are."

The book also treats you, readers, with illuminating one-liners. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala is direct to the point: "It's one thing to espouse principles, but another thing to live up to them. That's when integrity comes in."

It's a "function of complete honesty in all your dealings," points out Crescenciano Toledo, Johnson & Johnson general manager. Joselito D. Y. Campos, United Laboratories chair and CEO, is laconic: "You have to be consistent. Basically, you do what you say, whether it's personal or corporate."

Does it make good business sense to be governed by a set of corporate ethical norms? The Ayala head gives a simple answer: "Success comes by sticking to principles."

Petron's Nick Alcantara draws from his experience: "If you are correct in your business practices, it may be difficult at the start, but eventually you get the winning edge in the competition."

Procter & Gamble GM, Johnip Cua, stresses the long-term impact of sticking to one's principles: "Without ethics, there can be no sustainable success companies that do not have the basic ingredients of honesty and integrity do not last very long."

The book is virtually a long but engaging "roundtable discussion" among CEOs on corporate ethics. It's enough of a feat to bring them together in one glossy book, and Finex should be commended for making it available to our readers.

For starters, the book gives readers a rare chance to have a window into the ethical mindsets of the country's captains of industry.

And for this reason, the book deserves a sequel—one where the author could probably further process the valuable thoughts of these CEOs under categories or thought clusters, for example, on "integrity," "bribery," "integrity in information," etc., as additional value to readers.

The publishers have thought well to call public attention to this important subject, and it would be well if the sequel of this book would also tell our readers what they think—in the mode of Randy David, in his erstwhile talk show, giving his last word about the entire discussion.

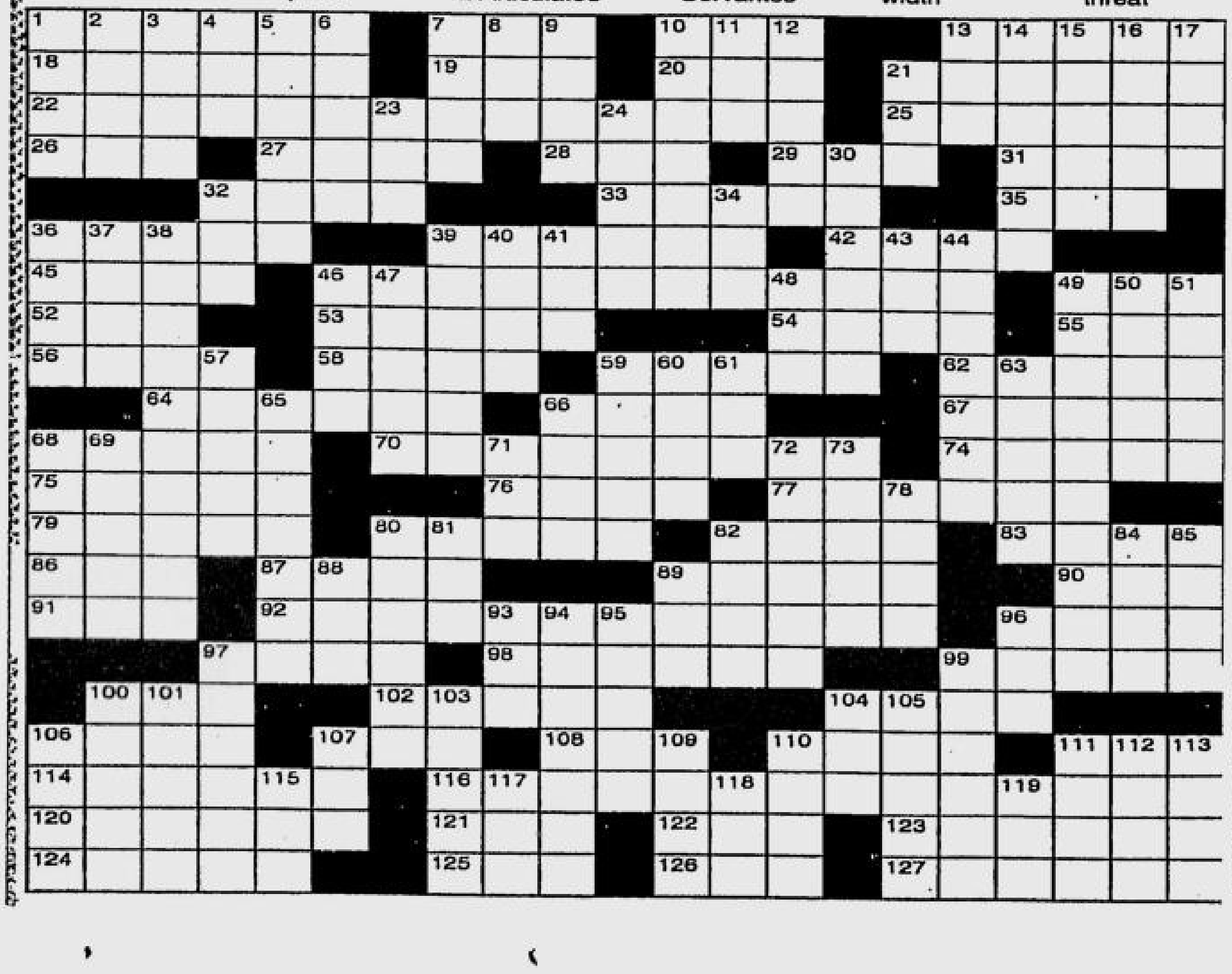
Readers would stop and listen if this happens. Meanwhile, we have a roundtable discussion with the author facilitating—and annotating—the entire exercise. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone **SOFT TOUCH**

ACROSS
1 Picker-uppers
7 Mr. Ziegfeld
10 Bread spread
13 Actress Laurie
18 Conductor Toscanini
19 Word with corn or snake
20 Mr. Baba
21 Scavullo's equipment
22 Elizabeth Taylor movie
25 Hudson River city
26 Day- —
27 Rock's — Floyd
28 "Holy cow!"
29 Use the microwave
31 "Topaz" author
32 Gab
33 Football's Matson
35 Pupil's place
36 Energetic
39 '64 Hitchcock film
42 Way
45 Steber solo
46 English racer
49 Arkansas hrs.
52 West's "Diamond —"
53 Presses
54 Help in a heist
55 Cry of discovery
56 Blend
58 — -chef
59 "Die Fledermaus" maid
62 Word form for "bone"
64 Fancy
66 Sailing
67 "Wait — Dark" ('67 film)
68 Comic Mandel
70 Bribe-to-be
74 Recesses
75 Pays to play
76 Manuscript imperative
77 Peter's partner
79 Smallest
80 Fiery felony
82 Atmosphere
83 Ridicule
86 Bisoglio or Kilmer
87 Perry's creator
89 "—, you'll like it!"
90 Laudatory verse
91 Wapiti
92 Jason's quest
96 "Uptown Girl" singer
97 Screenwriter James
98 Big-billed bird
99 Power a trike
100 On the — (fleeing)
102 Composer Telemann
104 Moira Shearer, for one
106 Mrs. Zeus
107 Sniggler's quarry
108 Humor
110 Actress Arlene
111 Salon request
114 Hammed up "Hamlet"
116 Some boxers
120 Helen Hunt Jackson novel
121 Unwell
122 Hosp. area
123 Layers
124 Musty
125 Relative of -ist
126 — de plume
127 Tailor's apparatus

DOWN
1 Din from dynamite
2 Articulated
3 Director Preminger
4 "— generis"
5 Award
6 Sanchez or Braga
7 — dance
8 Actress Ullmann
9 First name in fashion
10 Field event
11 Flagon filler
12 Actress Gaynor
13 Crony
14 Permeated
15 Pole star?
16 Banks of baseball
17 Sunshine, slangily
21 Mushroom part
23 Farm animal
24 Tea of "Deep Impact"
30 Certain bacterium
32 Numbers man?
34 Part of a triangle
36 Reading matter?
37 Part of HOMES
38 Doris Day movie
39 Writer de Cervantes
40 Olympic hawk
41 "Kidnapped" monogram
43 Sugary suffix
44 Flabbergast
46 Iranian city
47 Moves like a Morgan
48 "— de mer"
49 Certain poplar
50 Arabian chieftain
51 Hoes and hammers
57 Produces prunes
59 Wan
60 Adroit
61 — Claire, WI
63 A nose that shows
65 IRA, e.g.
66 Concerning
68 Bisect
69 Hoopster Shaquille
71 Nav. designation
72 Vietnam's — Van Thieu
73 Column style
78 Figure of interest?
80 Accuse tentatively
81 Florid
82 Length X width
84 Scheme
85 Relate
88 Salty spread
89 RN's specialty
93 Ike's domain
94 Connecticut city
95 "Tempus —"
96 Gush
97 Explosive mixture
99 Considerate
100 Paul of "American Graffiti"
101 Luncheonette lure
103 Wee
104 Shorten a slat
105 Karpov's game
106 Towel word
107 Author LeShan
109 Svelte
110 Grass' "The Tin —"
111 Kind of carpet
112 Major conclusion
113 Obsolete title
115 Chemical ending
117 Ivy Leaguer
118 Author Umberto
119 Kennel threat



ANSWER ON PAGE B5

Firm paints dream for painters

DUTCH Boy Philippines Inc. has been painting colors of hope for thousands of Filipino workers who have acquired a useful technical skill—construction painting.

Salvador Morada Jr., a single 27-year-old electrician, wanted to learn a new skill that would help him land a job in Dubai. Jun thought painting would be useful since as an electrician he usually repaints surfaces after doing electrical works. "*Makakatulong ng malaki ang certificate mula sa Tesda sa application ko sa Dubai,*" he said. "*Matutupad na rin ang pangarap kong makapagtrabaho abroad.*"

Jun is one of the 2,000 workers all over the country who have taken the one-week construction painting course being offered by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) with the cooperation of Dutch Boy, the recognized paint authority. The joint effort aims to produce technically competent construction painters.

This partnership, which was sealed in a memorandum of agreement signed on July 6, 2000, has helped thousands of Filipinos find gainful employment here and abroad.

Dutch Boy recently received the Kabalikat Award from Tesda which recognized Dutch Boy's contribution to the development of construction painters in terms of skills, abilities and proper work attitudes.

"We, at Dutch Boy, continue to respond to the growing need for professionally trained construction painters in the industry," said Dobbin Tan, vice president for corporate planning. "Unknown to many, construction painting requires strict application procedures that start with proper surface preparation. This is necessary to achieve the quality finish that will not only improve the looks but protect structures for years to come."

Dutch Boy is the country's first ISO 9002-certified paint manufacturer that has consistently provided its customers with superior quality products and services of international standards through the years. "We have always stood for quality and excellence, and these same values we intend to instill in the graduates of the training program," Tan said.

Recently, Dutch Boy again led the industry in innovation and social responsibility. Together with the Philippine Constructors Association, Dutch Boy and Tesda launched "Pintor AKO!"—*Pintor, Asenso Ka Organisasyon.*

Tan said "Pintor AKO!" aims to cultivate a sense of responsibility in their trade and pride in their work. "This completes the quality system that starts with Dutch Boy's best manufacturing processes, and delivered to customer satisfaction through the painters' passion for excellence and expression of self-dignity, self-worth and self-fulfillment," he said.

₱222-seed . . .

(From page B1)

nation coupled with hard work and, of course, help from Above," the coop secretary recalled the trying times of the GSACC.

Service expansion

After concentrating for 24 years on a single service—providing loans to its members—the GSACC ventured on marketing in August 1988.

The expansion of its service started with the establishment of a marketing center, which was the coop's response to a popular request from its members to find a means for them to own affordable household appliances.

While the loan service helps members get their children through college and satisfy their emergency needs, the marketing center enables them to acquire their household necessities.

"The marketing center offers coop members appliances at 10-percent discount and on installment basis at very reasonable terms," Escueta said.

On its 25th year, the GSACC courageously discarded its self-imposed moratorium on borrowing from outside sources. Responding to the clamor of farmer-members, the coop finally accepted the loan the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) had long been offering.

For the first time in its history, the GSACC entered into a loan contract with the PBSP worth P350,000 to finance the programs of its Agri Development Center (ADC), which until now caters to the production and marketing needs of some 300 farmer-members.

The ADC provides a farmer-member commodity loan by lending him a sack or two of rice for his family's subsistence, which he can pay within 30 days.

Production loan

It also gives production loans, which a farmer-member can use to buy certified seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and provide him with enough cash to spend during the planting season.

The GSACC charges 2-percent interest on its production loan, payable within 15 days after the harvest.

This strategy is aimed at breaking the shackles that bound the farmer-members to the local usurers and *compradas*, which in the long run will free them from such feudal exploitation.

Because Gubat lies in the typhoon path, the GSACC made it a policy to retain 5 percent of the production loan that a farmer-member avails himself of to serve as an "in-house" crop insurance premium.

With the percentage retention from the production loan the farmer-member gets, the coop secures the crops and refunds a certain percentage should problems arise.

The other components of the ADC include palay buying, warehousing, mechanical dryer services and interest-free loan for hog-raising projects.

Still, another spin-off service was the diagnostic center, which offers laboratory examination of blood chemistry and hematology.

Reaching out

Like a good seed that grows into a sturdy tree, the benefits the GSACC offers to low- and middle-income earners continue to extend beyond the borders of Gubat town.

The Cooperative Development Authority has approved its expansion to four more towns that surround Gubat.

From the 30 founding members 37 years ago, the GSACC's membership has grown to 3,679, covering five of the 16 towns in Sorsogon province.

"Consequently, it dawned on us that the GSACC already needs a bigger building to accommodate all the members during the general assembly and ownership seminar. With the inconvenience the members experienced in the past gatherings, the general assembly decided to invest on a new building and authorized the board to apply for a loan," Escueta said.

The GSACC availed itself of loans from the Land Bank of the Philippines and the United Coconut Planters Bank.

On Jan. 11, 1999 the construction of the four-story building started. The coop spent at least P15 million for this new facility.

In less than two years' time, the cooperative has paid its debts religiously and what had remained of the debts from banks as of September this year was less than one-half of the principal or P7 million.

P222-SEED/ B5

₱222-seed grows into a sturdy ₱81-M tree

(From page B4)

True to its avowed practice of helping its members alleviate their economic situation, the GSACC has never failed to distribute the dividends by the end of every year.

It also pays at least a 5-percent interest on the savings deposits of its members.

And perhaps GSACC is the only cooperative that gives midyear and yearend bonuses to its members from its annual profit earnings.

Though this privilege depends on the annual performance of its business, this further instills a sense of collective ownership of the enterprise where benefits from operations are equally shared.

Alicia E. Sanares, an engineer and an ordinary member, said that never in her lifetime as a member of the GSACC has she felt that the coop gives special privilege to its officers.

And most important, she said, the general assembly's highest decision-making function has never been tinkered to suit the interest of a few.

Leonisa L. Ferreras, the former bookkeeper and now the coop manager, revealed that all the members are entitled to a burial benefit of P5,000 each, which the GSACC donates from its earnings.

Ferreras said the GSACC has pegged the budget for the burial benefit at 12 persons for every 1,000 members every year.

She said each member is obliged to contribute P5 for every departed coop member from an amount of P240 the GSACC collects upon acceptance of one's membership. This is aside from the minimum shares of stock of P1,000 and a membership fee of P50 a new member has to pay.

Ferreras said the P240 becomes a reserved fund intended for the contribution for the dead and is replenished every year with the same amount of cash that has been used up.

Medical benefits

The coop manager said the members are also encouraged to invest in the coop for their medical benefits, from P500 to P3,500. But, she said, this is optional.

Ferreras said the members who opt to invest for their medical benefits are entitled to a medical loan up to as much as five times the deposit without interest, which can be paid within one year.

As a social service to the most needy, the GSACC has also opened a window for women peddlers, which the coop has organized into Grameen-like associations whose members are granted individual loans from P1,000 to P2,000.

At present there are two 25 member-groups that have been organized. These meet every weekend to assess their small business, collectively resolve problems and pay their weekly amortization to the coop.

GSACC concerns further extend to schoolchildren who are encouraged to join the Saver's Club whose P500-and-up deposit could earn them interests.

On Saturdays, the GSACC gives special service to the school kids who are members of the Saver's Club.

Healthy relations

For almost four decades, nothing has essentially changed in the manner by which the GSACC is run, except that the operations have become complicated, multifaceted and far-reaching.

In an ordinary day, the loan and credit section of the GSACC is teeming with coop members who are there to pay their obligations, deposit their savings or simply seek counsel from the manager.

Ferreras said being the person tasked to carry on with the management tradition of GSACC, she assumes the job of an accountant, manager and counselor rolled into one.

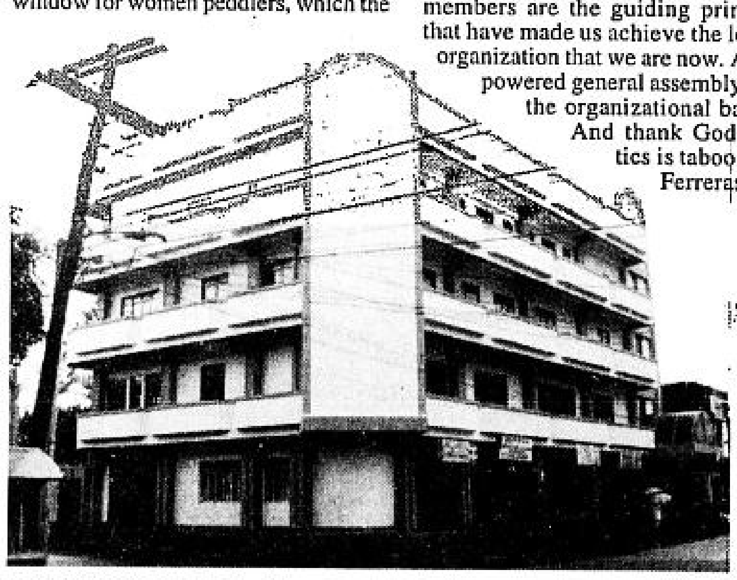
"Unlike ordinary financial institutions, our coop has to extend personalized service to the members because this is the best way that you can let them feel that they are co-owners of the GSACC," she enthused.

She said the board of directors of the coop is just as easy to go along with because the members carry out their duties and responsibilities to the coop in an informed way, and in a tradition that has been handed down from the founding members to the present officers.

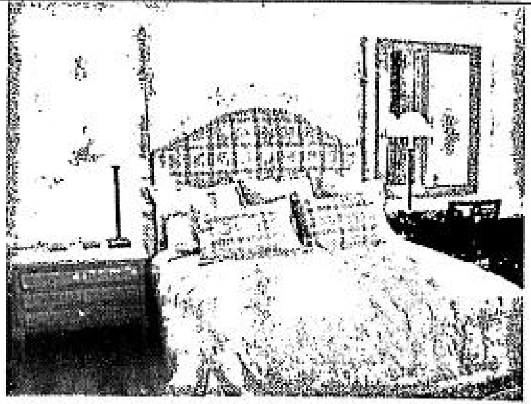
In management meetings and consultations, Ferreras described everyone as cordial and light-hearted. She observed that nobody imposes his or her ideas, instead, ideas are presented in the form of suggestions while seldom that decisions are arrived at without consensus.

With clear financial and operational policies and procedures deeply installed and real concern from its members to the well-being of the GSACC, the board of directors and the manager are guided to perform their responsibilities to the best interest of the coop.

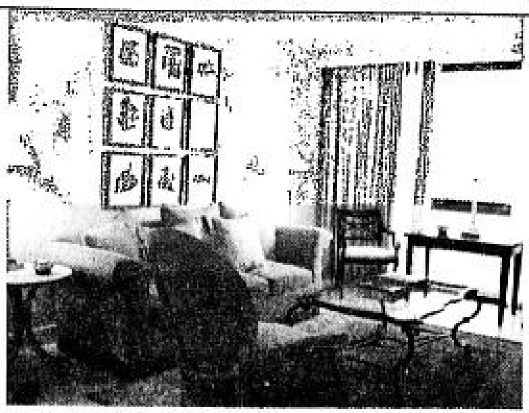
"Transparency, honesty, integrity and selfless service to the coop and its members are the guiding principles that have made us achieve the level of organization that we are now. An empowered general assembly keeps the organizational balance. And thank God, politics is taboo here," Ferreras said.



THE NEW GSACC building worth P15 milion.



A TYPICAL BEDROOM at the Biltmore.



THE UNITS exude old world charm.

DRESSING up the guest room.

Greenbelt condominium eyes discriminating triple A crowd

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PEOPLE say that there are two things that define a successful executive—his car and his home.

With this thought in mind, construction firm Pacific Resources Corp., which has been putting up houses in places like Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village, offers to the market a home that every executive can be proud of.

And with a price tag ranging from P7 million for a one-bedroom unit to about P27 million for a three-bedroom spread, The Biltmore on Greenbelt is not something to be sneezed at.

Mariros Rippoll, marketing manager of the Biltmore residential condominium, says the Biltmore targets the upper crust of the A crowd who intend to actually live at the Biltmore and not merely invest in it.

"We have been very particular about putting in only the best materials, fixtures and even thinking about a place where they can clean their mops because we want to makes rue that they would want to stay here everyday," Rippoll explains.

Rippoll adds that Pacific chair Bernard Lichaytoo plans to stay at the condominium building himself, so he wanted to put in a host of features that he liked himself.

Lichaytoo was involved in the project from the construction phase and put in what he learned from over 20 years of experience in the construction industry.

One of these was the location of the elevators, so that they would open up to windows instead of a blank concrete wall. The rooms were also provided a big utility area so that they could hang up their clothes without being seen from the outside.

Some units of the Biltmore were turned over to their owners starting August this year and many of them have moved in.

Rippoll says most of the buyers were newlyweds, executives, bachelors as well as entrepreneurs.

"We have a mixed group but we are really targeting the triple A crowd. They are mostly executives and young professionals," Rippoll says.

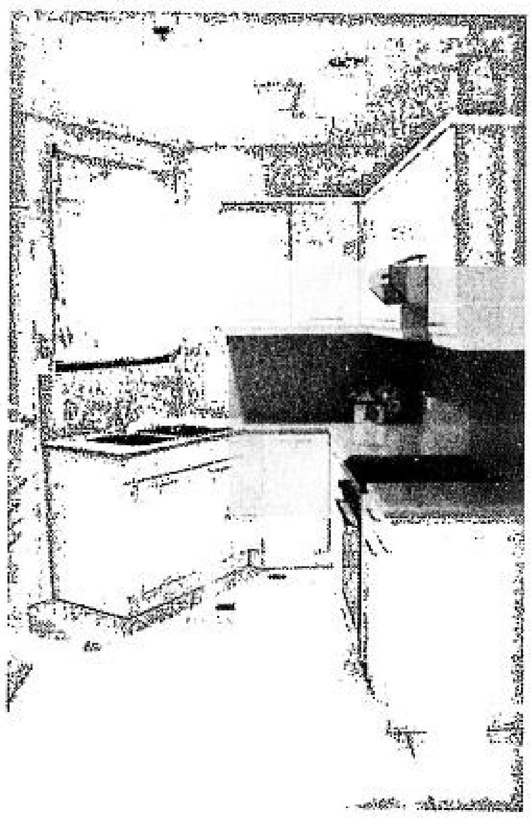
The one-bedroom unit spans 80 square meters that come with one toilet and bath, a guest toilet and bath and a laundry area. The two-bedroom units include a separate maid's room and laundry area while three-bedroom units cover 250 square meters.

All units have build in split-type air conditioning units, cooking range, two-door refrigerator/freezer unit, imported bathroom fixtures and tiles, hot water system, intercom system and fire protection systems.

Further amenities include a swimming pool, landcscaped garden on the roofdeck, business center, concierge and housekeeping services.

NO scrimping on window space.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA



THE UNITS come with a fully furnished kitchen with an oven, range hood and a two-door refrigerator/freezer.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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'Failure guru' to hold talk

TOP Malaysian author and lecturer Billi Lim, also known as the world's first Failure Guru, will be in Manila on Nov. 29, 2001 to conduct his first ever Dare to Fail seminar at Dusit Hotel Nikko.

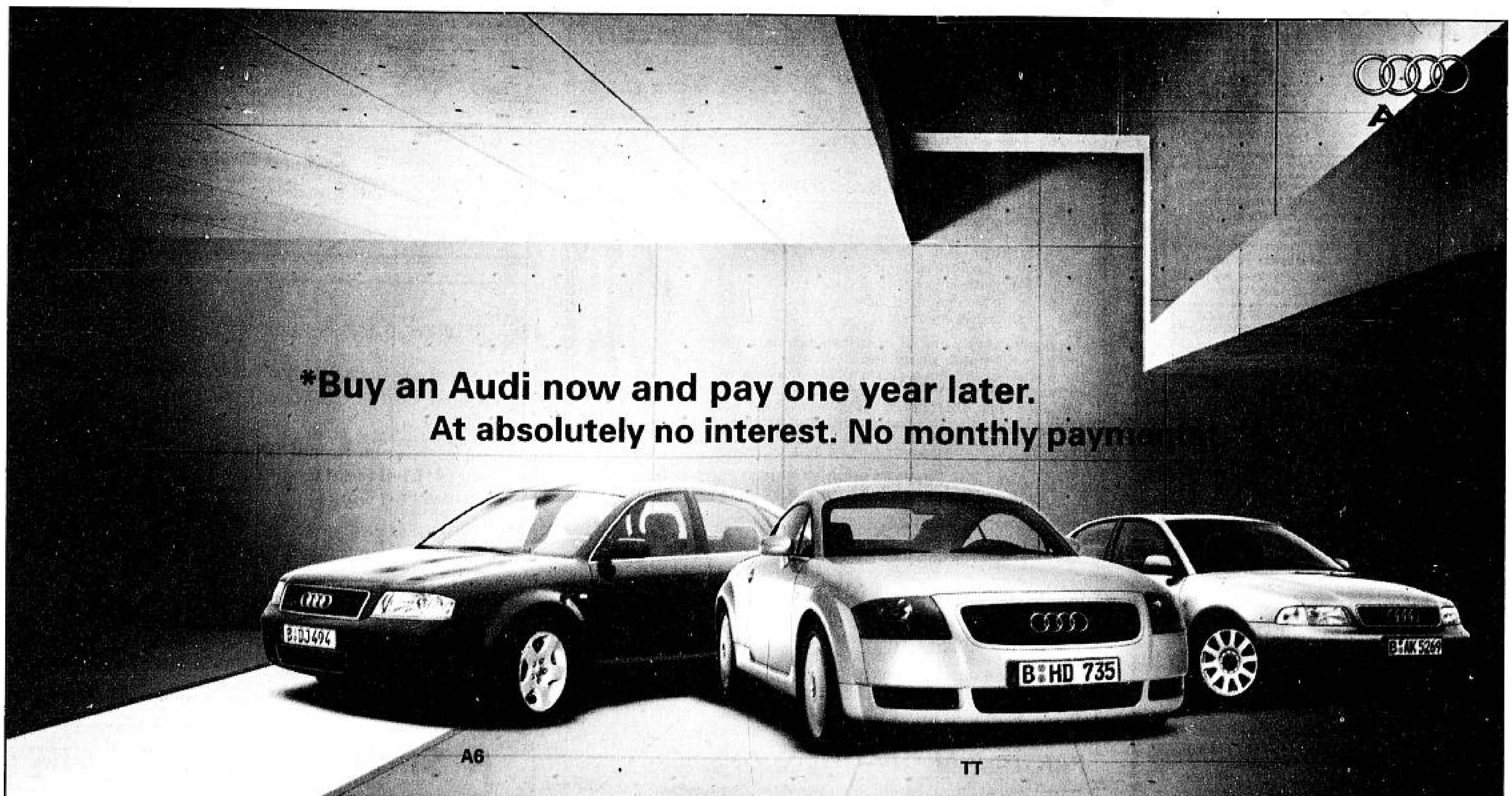
Currently on a lecture tour of Southeast Asia, Lim, author if the best-selling book "Dare to Fail" believes that failure is part of the process of growth, the process of learning.

Success, according to him, is only half of the story of a person's journey through life.

A significant part of that journey is experiencing failure, rejection or even downfall.

The Dare to Fail seminar will bring out the inspiring untold secrets of very successful people—who failed more times than non-achievers but never gave up.

Seating is limited. For more details, please call 750-1495/750-1499 or email *babylonsisters99@yahoo.com*


*Buy an Audi now and pay one year later.
At absolutely no interest. No monthly paym
B:DJ 494
B:HD 735
B:HK 5269
A6
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*With a 50% downpayment, now you have a whole year to simply relish luxurious rides in your Audi. Because only at the end of the 12th month will you then be paying the 50% balance at 0% interest.

Audi Model	SRP	50% Downpayment	Balance after 1 yr.
A4 1.8 Automatic	P 1,794,000	P 897,000	P 897,000
A4 1.8 Turbo Tiptronic	2,104,500	1,052,250	1,052,250
A4 Turbo Tiptronic Avant	2,366,700	1,183,350	1,183,350
A6 2.4 Triptonic	3,075,000	1,537,500	1,537,500
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	1,719,250	1,719,250
TT Coupe 1.8 180bhp	3,105,000	1,552,500	1,552,500
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	1,713,500	1,713,500

*Subject to approval of participating banks (UnionBank, Insular Savings Bank and Asiatrust)

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ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
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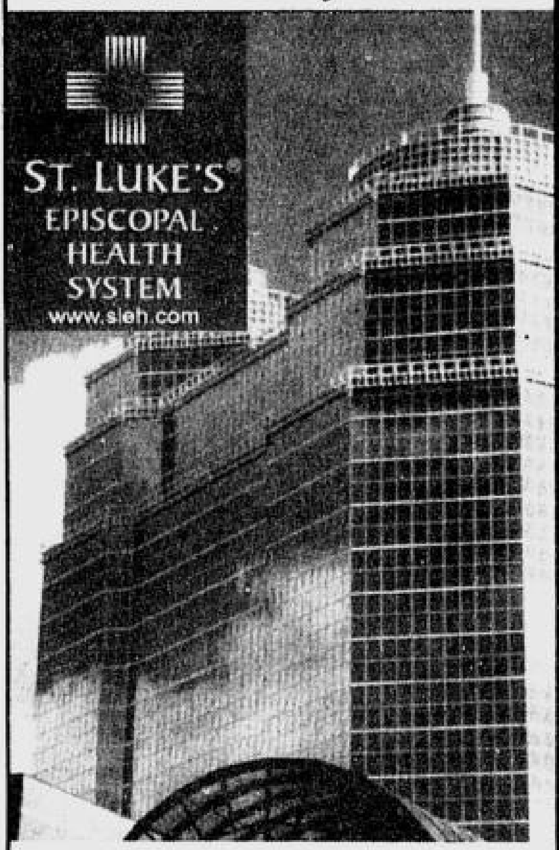

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Staff members at St. Luke's Episcopal Health System are part of a "work family" that shares a great deal. They share several core values that guide their actions: integrity, excellence, goal orientation and valuing people. And St. Luke's emphasis on valuing people involves not only for patients but for each other.

At St. Luke's, every employee is a valued member of the St. Luke's family - we depend upon each other to provide continued high-quality service to Houston and the greater community. Therefore, St. Luke's gives employees a total compensation package that includes pay, benefits and a wide range of programs that take into consideration your professional needs as well as the personal needs of you and your family.

As a nurse of St. Luke's, you are assured of the following:

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*Attend our orientation on November 17, 2001, 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
*CGFNS review class starts on November 19, 2001

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- Good communication skills
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- Obtain Immigrant visa for whole family and enjoy same rights and privileges of a Canadian Citizen

ORIENTATION DETAILS

Date:	14 November 2001(Wed) 10:00 a.m.
Venue:	402-B Vicente Madrigal Building 6793 Ayala Ave., Makati City
Tel. #:	891-5688 to 89
Fees:	P500.00 Prepaid or P600.00 walk-in (Inclusive of snacks and materials)
Requirements	Comprehensive resume, 2x2 picture Training certificates / Diploma

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FOR MORE DETAILS CALL OR VISIT US AT:
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Attend Our Very Informative Seminar & Get to be Assessed Accurately by Our Immigration Experts
On November 15, 2001, 6:00 P.M.
At 24/F Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City

Early Registrants: P 300 or At the Door Registrants: P 500

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An international humanitarian NGO with head office in Makati is seeking for its new Vigan office:

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Main task:
- In charge with the technical aspects of implementing a livelihood project for the fisherfolks in Vigan

Responsibilities:
- Hatchery management
- Design of survey-study (i.e. water quality, river possibilities, technical production)
- Water analysis and water quality database
- Conduct of trainings on water resource management and fisheries development
- Coordination with other agencies/institutions involved in the project
- Assistance in capacity building

Profile:
- Degree in Geology, Hydrology or similar field
- Knowledge on water resources and fisheries, environmental issues and concerns
- With at least 2 years experience in a related field, preferably acquired in NGOs
- Ability to work with rural area people
- Initiative and problem solving skills
- Fluent in English and Ilocano
- Computer knowledge

Applicants may send no later than November 19 their application letter, resumé with photo and references to: The Head of Project, Second Floor, #9 Quema Street, Vigan, Ilocos Sur (Fronting Vigan Elementary School) Fax No. (077) 722-7268. Work starts November 26, 2001. Only short-listed applicants will be notified.

WANTED: PROJECT ENGINEER

THE WORK ENTAILS TRAVEL TO VESSELS TO IMPLEMENT PMS AND CONDUCT ONSHORE TRAINING TO SEASTAFF AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PMS VESSELS.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Experienced Chief Engr. not more than 45 years old. (IAE with C/E license can be considered)
- Knowledge and experience from on board maintenance and spare part management
- Knowledge and understanding of traditional Shipboard Plan Maintenance System (AMOS-D/Consultas) is an advantage
- IT and IT-system knowledge/computer literate

PARTICULAR QUALIFICATIONS:
- Ability to establish vessel's maintenance plan based upon inputs from operation and mandatory requirements from vendors and authorities
- Ability to acquire knowledge and understanding of the new general SAP-PMS and Klaveness objectives with the project
- Ability to communicate on management level with Klaveness technical department and with vendors
- Ability to assess and evaluate inputs with a critical but constructive approach based on technical experience
- Ability to train people for PMS onboard and ashore

*Interested applicants may submit Biodata to the **Administrative Officer, KLAVENESS MARITIME AGENCY, INC. - 6th Floor, VNP Bldg., 479 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila. Tel. 5236883 / 5238984, Fax 3021491 / 92**, E-Mail: **klaveness@pacific.net.ph***

DKT

We are a non-government organization involved in social marketing and distribution of contraceptive products. We are inviting successful and driven individuals to fill in the vacant positions of:

Regional Manager (Luzon)

Responsible for the overall supervision of sales personnel and management. The focus is on the sales function (setting targets, training staff, monitoring and increasing sales performance), implementation and monitoring of product A & P campaigns, managing distributor/partner relationships, monitoring sales revenues and collection, and reporting.

QUALIFICATIONS:

At least 2 to 3 years supervisory experience in sales (consumer/pharmaceutical products).
Proven track record of high achievement.
Solid marketing background.
Exceptional interpersonal communication skills.
Computer literate (spreadsheets and word processing).
Ability to conceptualize and implement A & P activities at the field level in the region.
Familiarity with the region.
A team player is a must.

Brand Specialist (Ethical Products)

The Brand Manager for Ethical Products will be responsible for the overall performance of DKT's business in fertility and reproductive health product/brand management. The successful candidate will develop and implement a strategy geared to surpass current sales achievement. He/she will be responsible for product development and market expansion focusing on hormonal and other related ethical products. He/she will be a part of a dynamic marketing team, and a highly successful and motivated sales force.

QUALIFICATIONS:

We seek an experienced and energetic manager with a solid background in sales and marketing of more than 5-7 years. A strong focus in contraceptive technology, family planning, and reproductive health is a requirement. Experience and familiarity with government and non-government organizations is a distinct advantage.

*We offer a package commensurate with qualifications and experience. All qualified and interested parties may submit a letter of application (indicating the position you are applying for), photo and CV, not later than **November 15, 2001**, to:*

**DKT PHILIPPINES, INC.
5th Flr. Cedar Executive Bldg. II
No. 26 Timog Avenue, Quezon City
Attention: HRD**

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unicef
United Nations Children's Fund

PROJECT OFFICER
NUTRITION (Code: NUTN)

Work with the health and nutrition team to plan, implement, and evaluate micronutrient deficiency control programmes. Formulate strategies to ensure active participation of concerned government sectors and the salt and food industries. Manage and monitor UNICEF's support to the national micronutrient deficiency programme. Provide technical assistance to all programme partners for smooth implementation, documentation and replication of good practices, and formulation of training and capacity building initiatives. Manage financial assistance to programme partners.

Master's degree or equivalent qualifications in business or health-related disciplines. At least five years' progressively responsible experience in product or brand management, food fortification, coordination with trade/industry partners, customer advocacy, and product evaluation. Strong leadership, negotiating, and analytical skills. Results and team oriented with excellent communication and computer skills. Willing to travel.

PROJECT OFFICER
IMMUNIZATION (Code: IMM)

Work with the health and nutrition team to provide technical assistance for planning, logistics, and evaluation of the national disease reduction initiatives with emphasis on polio eradication, measles elimination, and maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination. Monitor and manage UNICEF'S support to the national programme. Assist programme partners in strengthening the system for timely provision of vaccine, supplies, equipment, and in formulating training and capacity-building initiatives. Manage and monitor supply and cash assistance to programme partners.

Master's degree or equivalent qualifications in health-related disciplines preferably public health. At least four years' progressively responsible experience in managing immunization programmes including disease surveillance and outbreak control. Strong leadership, negotiating, and analytical skills. Results and team oriented with excellent communication and computer skills. Knowledge of Mindanao dialects, an advantage. Willing to travel.

Please RUSH application letter together with bio-data to the Operations Officer, UNICEF, P.O. Box 1076 MCPO, 1250 Makati City. Indicate the code on the envelope. Closing date for application is 25 November 2001. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.

*UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment.
Applications from qualified women are encouraged.*

DAEWOO ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.

Urgently needs the following Personnel for the Rehabilitation of Baguio-Bontoc-Banaue Road (Halsema Highway) Project:

- **One (1) Geotechnical Engineer**
- **Four (4) Civil Field Engineers (must have knowledge in surveying works)**

Must have at least ten (10) years of experience in mountainous area for civil, roads and bridges projects.

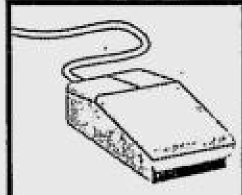
Preferably living in nearby provinces.

Personally submit your resumé and credentials at
Daewoo Field Office, Camp 30 Barangay Sapiangao, Topdak, Atok, Benguet or call (074) 422-3210

A Smart Card Company

- Degree in Electronic Engineering / ECE
- Experience in 6805, 8051 assembly language programming
- C language programming with 6805, 8051 microcontroller.

If interested, please call 6385732 (look for Maricar) or send resumé to **mit@info.com.ph**



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LIAISON OFFICER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Female 22 to 30 years old
- College graduate of any business related course
- With good scholastic record
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- With pleasing personality
- Computer Literate
- Knowledge of French Language is an Advantage
- Articulate Self-motivated & Able to work under pressure
- Deep-rooted, Spirit-filled Born-again Christian

BENEFITS

Good Incentives & Training
Plus TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

APPLY PERSONALLY AT

IMMIGRATION NETWORK SERVICES, INC.
Room 402-B Vicente Madrigal Bldg.,
6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Interviews conducted on Mondays to Fridays at 2:00 p.m

For more details
CALL: 891-5820 / 891-5920 to 21

Bring Resume and 2x2 Picture

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A. OPERATIONS OFFICER
B. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

For both positions:

- Male, college graduate
- At least 30 or up to 50 years old
- With 5 years experience in operations and administrative work
- Preferably has worked with a services/ manpower company
- Can render long hours of work, even on Sundays and holidays, when necessary or required

Apply personally, with resumé at ***DIAR'S ASSISTANCE, INC., DIAR'S Bldg., 232 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, Tel. Nos. 5318428, 5318457.***

Account Executive

Applications are invited for the post of Account Executive in a Pharmaceutical firm, experience in negotiating and customer servicing, together with knowledge in computer system are essential for the position. Expected to be responsible and aware on meeting work deadlines. A graduate of any science course would be an additional point on your application.

Please mail directly your CV/Resumé to:

Personnel Department
Mediprime-No. 11 Annapolis St.
Suite 1007 Wilshire Plaza
Greenhills, San Juan, Manila

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wistron

Wistron InfoComm (Philippines) Corporation
[illegible]
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase I
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2200
Telephone [illegible]
Facsimile [illegible]

**** OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION ****

CSD MANAGER

Qualifications:

☐ Male • Less than 35 years old • Preferably can speak Chinese fluently • A graduate of Electrical Engineering • Must have a good communication skills • Must have 2 years experience in repairing motherboards specifically Notebook computer and server • Familiar with all aspect of computer operation (software & hardware) • Familiar with problem solving and failure analysis.

Requirements:

■ Updated resumé with recent photo • Diploma / Transcript of Records • Birth Certificate • Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:

MR. ROMMEL AQUINO
Division Chief, Recruitment Division
SBMA-Labor Center
Rm. 138, Building 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222

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WILSON or ASUN
Contact No. 2411443; 2427869;
0917-8325350

Quezon City Branch:

MARLON or ANETH
Tel. No. 439-0203 / 0917-4868759

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EARN WHILE YOU SAVE!

SUCCESS... is not what you earn today, But what you save for the Future!!!

CARE
PHILIPPINES

CARE International, one of the world's best-known NGOs, works in 60 countries to provide development and relief assistance to the poor.

(1) PROJECT TEAM LEADER (PTL)
(3) ADMINISTRATIVE FINANCE OFFICER (AFOs)
(7) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (CDOs)

CARE Philippines is implementing a three-year project entitled Community Organizing – Fishery Resource Management Project (CO-FRMP) under the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) Regional Office VIII. Based in La Union, the Project will bring the fishery sector for sustainable use of fishery resources and income diversification for the sector.

CO-FRMP is a new project that adds to CARE's portfolio which includes micro-finance, agricultural cooperatives development, enterprise development, agrarian reform, integrated conservation and development, health development and advocacy programs.

Applicants for this position must be graduates in a job-related discipline, with at least 3 years experience in rural development, cooperative strengthening or community organizing work.

The task is to strengthen people organizations and cooperatives for the sustainable use of fishery resources and income diversification of fisherfolks.

Positions stated above are for manpower pooling except for two (2) AFOs which will be based in Quezon (Tayabas & Calauag), for immediate hiring.

CARE offers a stimulating work environment, and attractive remuneration and benefits. Please email/fax your two-page bio-data within 5 days to: David Neff, Country Director, CARE Philippines, Email carephil@care.org.ph or Fax 551-2631. CARE regrets it can reply only to short-listed applicants when project is approved.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A stable multi-million pre-need company with branches nationwide is in constant search for aggressive and success-oriented professionals for:

DISTRICT MANAGERS

- ☑ Male/Female, at least 30 years old
- ☑ College graduate, preferably Business Administration/Commerce
- ☑ Minimum of five years sales management experience
- ☑ Able to develop and implement sales and marketing plans to achieve district's objectives
- ☑ Ability to organize and develop sales force
- ☑ Exceptional leadership and management ability
- ☑ Hardworking, organized and result-oriented

FAMILY COUNSELORS

- ☑ Male/Female, at least 21 years old
- ☑ Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- ☑ Hardworking, organized and result-oriented

Attractive compensation package awaits successful candidates.

Interested parties may send their resumé and 2x2 photo to:

The Sales & Marketing Department
8th Floor, Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the procurement of the following Information Technology Resource requirements:

PROJECT	REQUIREMENTS	QTY	APPROVED BUDGET
I. LAN UPGRADE	A. Hardware		
	1. Servers (PDC, SDC, Exchange/Inchange, Internet, File Database)	5	1,500,000.00
	2. Routers, switches, hubs, bridges and cabling requirements (including connectors, racks, faceplates, etc.)	1 lot	1,500,000.00
	3. Workstations (with UPS and table)	50	3,500,000.00
	B. Software	100 licenses	1,000,000.00
	1. Win NT 5.0		
	2. MS Proxy 2.0		
	3. Checkpoint		
	4. Network Mini Package		
	5. Norton Utilities		
	6. MS Office XP Prof BD		
	C. Other Requirements		500,000.00
	1. Back-up Tape Drive	5	
	2. Back-up Tapes	35	
	3. Networking Tools (crimping tool, fluke, connectors, testers, splicers, etc.)	one set	
II. DND CONFERENCING SYSTEM	Audio/Video Hardware/Software Components (Package)	1 lot	2,500,000.00
III. WED DEVELOPMENT	A. Hardware		
	1. Web Server	1	300,000.00
	2. Digiboard	1	
	3. Modem	8	
	B. Software		
	1. Visual Studio 6.0		
	2. Image/Graphics		
	3. ASP		
	C. Other Requirements		300,000.00
	1. Web development fee		
	2. Web hosting		
IV. INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	A. Hardware		
	1. Application Servers	4	1,200,000.00
	B. Branded Software		
	1. Visual Basic 6.0		
	2. MS SQL 7.0		
	3. Visual Studio 6.0		
V. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT & ARCHIVE SYSTEM	Requirements		5,000,000.00
	Server		
	Storage Box (Juke Box)		
	High Speed Scanners		
	Doc Management Software		
	Build Stations & API	3	
VI. EXECUTIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM	Hardware		
	Laptops	13	1,560,000.00
OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS, AUDIO/VIDEO	Hardware		
	Network printers	15	450,000.00
	Server Printer	1	60,000.00

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for eligibility on or before **November 26, 2001** at the Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone no. 911-8118:

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business License/Permit (2001)
4. Audited financial statements (attach Income Tax Return) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last two years together with addresses, telephone numbers, contact persons
7. Certificate of Distributorship

Inquiries on the details and particulars of the Instructions to Bidders and other bid documents shall be entertained during office hours at the Office of Administrative Services, DND. Prospective bidders are instructed to visit the AFP website (www.armedforces.mil.ph) for updates and/or bid bulletins. A pre-bid conference shall be held on **Nov. 19**, 10:00 a.m. at the DND Training Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of bid proposals and opening of bids is on **Dec. 5, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the DND Conference Room.

This Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org and the AFP website at www.armedforces.mil.ph, and at conspicuous places in the premises of the DBM Procurement Service and the DND.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid as evaluated by the OSND Bids and Awards Committee on Information Technology Resources (BAC-ITR).

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO D. BLANCAFLOR**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee on ITR

(PDI – Nov. 11 & 16, 2001)

INVITATION TO CONSULTANTS

The **NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas, Inc.** (NIPA) is a consortium of leading civil society organizations involved in environment and development work, particularly in protected area management. It is the recipient of an $18 million dollar grant from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and works with the DENR and the World Bank in the implementation of the Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Project (CPPAP) that pilot-tests the National Integrated Protected Areas (NIPAS) Law.

The CPPAP is in need of consultants to **conduct Protected Area Management Zones Delineation and Demarcation for the Bataan Natural Park, Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Siargao Island Protected Landscapes and Seascapes, Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park, Apo Reef Natural Park and Mt. Apo Natural Park.** The detailed terms of reference of the project is available at the IPAS-PCU. The fundamental activities will cover ground demarcation after ground validation, survey of tenures (especially applications of indigenous peoples for land titles) and consultation with stakeholders.

Interested applicants will be selected following a stringent process that will give emphasis on past experience, capability and acceptability of proposal as to content and cost. The shortlisted firms will be sent an official Request For Proposal (RFP) which will describe in detail the requirements for selection.

Applicants may mail, fax, or e-mail their Letters of Interest, bio-data and queries not later than **November 16, 2001** to:

The Program Managers
Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Program
IPAS-PCU
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center
North Avenue, Quezon City
Fax No. 925-3426
E-mail address: nipa@nipa.org.ph

INVITATION TO CONSULTANTS

The **NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas, Inc.** (NIPA) is a consortium of leading civil society organizations involved in environment and development work, particularly in protected area management. It is the recipient of an $18 million dollar grant from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and works with the DENR and the World Bank in the implementation of the Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Project (CPPAP) that pilot-tests the National Integrated Protected Areas (NIPAS) Law.

The CPPAP is in need of consultants to **market the Protected Area Management Plans of the Apo Reef Natural Park, Bataan Natural Park, Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Siargao Island Protected Landscapes and Seascapes, Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park and Mt. Apo Natural Park.** The Terms of Reference for the services required include identification of potential funding partners at the site and in Metro Manila, development of presentation and marketing strategy for the potential funding partners and closure of deals or agreements of sponsorship and funding assistance with the potential partners.

Interested applicants will be selected following a stringent process that will give emphasis on past experience, capability and acceptability of proposal as to content and cost.

Applicants may mail, fax, or e-mail their Letters of Interest, bio-data and queries not later than **November 16, 2001** to:

The Program Managers
Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Program
IPAS-PCU
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center
North Avenue, Quezon City
Fax No. 925-3426
E-mail address: nipa@nipa.org.ph

TAIAN (SUBIC) ELECTRIC, INC.

MACHINERY ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR

Male / 25-30 years of age / Preferably can speak Mandarin / With 2-3 years experience in tool & die making, knowledgeable in the maintenance & repair of all types of tools, dies, fixtures & inspection devices for Plastic Injection Machines / Must know how to check tools, dies & fixtures to blueprint or model / Responsible for production tooling, plant engineering & equipment maintenance.

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé together with 2x2 pictures & other documents to Human Resource Section, ***Taian (Subic) Electric Inc.*** *SBIP-I Argonaout Hiway Cor. Braveheart St., SBFZ 2222 Tel. No. (047) 252-1668, 1669 Fax No. 252-1661 or thru SBMA Labor Center SBFZ 2222.*

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-02-002)

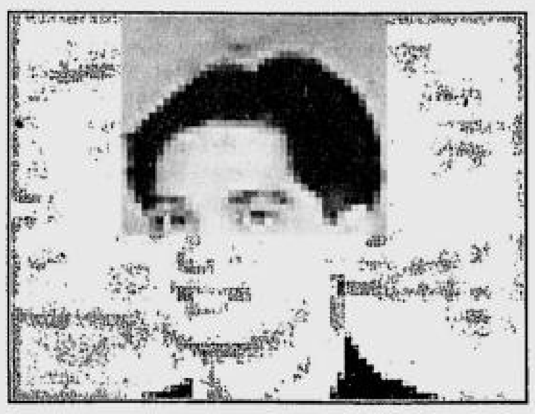
An International organization is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of janitorial services. The Contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by the international organization. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates or at fixed rates on an hourly/daily basis as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are to begin on or about May 1, 2002 and end April 30, 2004 with options to renew the contract. A direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 02-002 which may be obtained on **November 19, 2001** at USAID, Office of Regional Procurement, 8F PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for May Bringula.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the Regional Trial Court of Makati City Branch 142 (Criminal Case No. 99-1595 People of the Philippines vs. Jonas Leroy A. Ferrer) has issued a warrant for the arrest of JONAS LEROY A. FERRER whose picture appears below.



A substantial reward shall be given to anyone who can provide information leading to his arrest.

Please contact Atty. Marvin B. Aceron at tel. no. 812-9181.

(PDI – Nov. 11, 2001)

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- Structural Plan

Please call & submit documents to:

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MACHINE TOOL & EQUIPMENT - DEWALT 90 Wood Saw; Circular Wood Saw; Wood Planer Machine; Pedestal Drill; MILLER Gold Seal 420 Arc Welding Machine; Double Ended Grinder; ELECTROLUX 201 Pressure Washer; HAKOMATIC B90 Floor Sweeper; DYNA Tig-350 Electric Castolin; RYTMARC-XHD Electric Castolin; FISCHBEIN Bag Sealer; MITUTOYO Granite Surface Table; MITUTOYO Calipers; Grinding Wheels; Lathe Chucks & Steady's; GRACO Grease Pumps; Pallet Jacks; etc.

OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - COMPAQ PROLINEA - 75 MHE 10MB RAM; 630 MB HDD; COMPAQ Deskpro 133 MHZ 32 MB RAM 2-1 GB HDD; COMPAQ DESKPRO 200 MHZ 32 MB RAM 2-1 GB HDD; EPSON LX300 Dot Matrix Printer; OKI 320 Dot Matrix Printer; EPSON FX1170 & FX1050 Dot Matrix Printers; CITON C1 5000 Dot Matrix Printers; IBM Terminals; Clerical Chairs; Computer Tables; Double & Single Pedestal Office Tables; Back Cabinets; Work Surfaces; In & Out Filing Systems; Steel & Wooden Cabinets; Steel Lockers & Filing Cabinets; etc.

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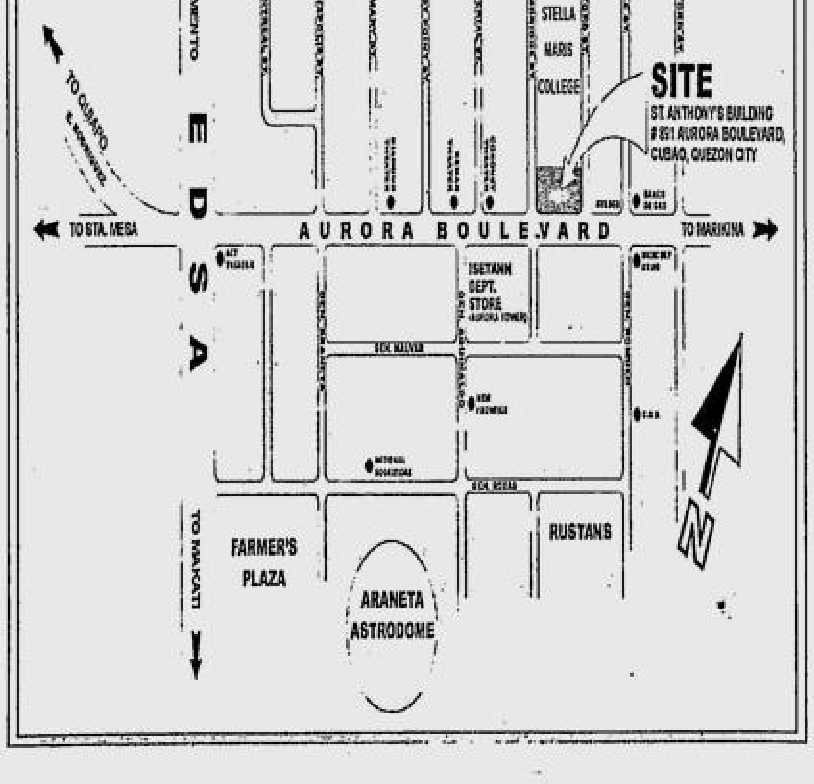

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the supply and delivery of one (1) unit Cartridge Cleaner Machine for 3480, 3490 and 3590 cartridge per BSP specifications.

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than **November 23, 2001**, photocopies of the following documents (original of Nos. 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2. 2000 Audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement - Minimum working capital of P1.0 Million and a networth of P2.0 Million) and 2000 Income Tax Return;
3. Company history/profile and corporate structure;
4. ISO 9000 certificate or equivalent;
5. Certification as to the number of years offering the unit;
6. Reference sites of successful installation of the unit (complete with contact name, address and telephone/fax numbers); and
7. Two (2) sets original product brochures.

Only those who submit/comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to the prequalified suppliers.

The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Manager I, Procurement Division III, Administrative Services Department, Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, Tel. Nos. 523-13-21.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Officer-in-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI – Nov. 11, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL
MUNICIPALITY OF GOVERNOR GENEROSO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: November 11, 2001
World Bank (IBRD Loan No. 4109 Ph)

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ***Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and*** intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 01-404-03 TIB-DOR for the *Tiblawan Water System* located at TIBLAWAN ARC, TIBLAWAN, GOVERNOR GENEROSO, DAVAO ORIENTAL. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Governor Generoso and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
100	Clearing and Grubbing	325.00 sq.m.
102	Excavation and Backfilling (Pipe Line)	1,120.00 cu.m.
103	Structure Excavation	30.00 cu.m.
404	Reinforcing Steel bar (include formworks)	3,332.60 kgs.
407	Structural Concrete	32.80 cu.m.
504	Riprap	1.50 cu.m.
Spl-A	Water Piping w/ 25 Communal Faucet	7,468.00 ln.m.

Bid Security : P46,000.00
Bid Closing Date : December 12, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.
Project Duration : 130 Calendar days

Minimum Equipment's Required
One (1) one bagger concrete mixed-owned,
one (1) unit bar cutter-owned, one (1) dumptruck-owned

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **November 15, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos only (P3,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **December 6, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Mayor, Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever or compensate indemnity to the contractor/ bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **JERRY V. DELA CERNA**
Municipal Mayor
Chairman, PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - Nov. 11, 2001)

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Ride ka lang

Q. What's the origin of the expression, 'Take someone for a ride'?

A. During the 1920s, American gangsters often dealt with a competitor by inviting him to take a ride in a large, black limousine, supposedly to discuss the dispute. The guest was never seen again alive. Mobsters dispose of their victims less ceremoniously nowadays; if someone takes you for a ride, you'll be deceived or swindled but not killed.

For the Record. The longest train ride in the world would be on the Trans-Siberian Railway, from Moscow to Vladivostok, a distance of 9,297 km or 5,777 mi. (In comparison, the Philippine archipelago stretches only 1,840 km from north to south.) If the spur to Nakhodka is included, the distance becomes 9,436 km. It was opened in sections, and the first goods train reached Irkutsk on August 27, 1898. There are 97 stops on the journey, which takes approximately eight days two hours and 25 minutes, and crosses seven time zones. There are nine tunnels, 139 large bridges or viaducts, and 3,762 smaller bridges or culverts on the whole route. Nearly the entire line is electrified. The United States, however, has the world's longest rail network with a total length of 240,000 km (149,129 mi), followed by Russia with 158,000 km (98,239 mi), and Canada with 146,444 (90,996).

Classified Odd. Sai Baba of Bangalore, India, was pronounced dead in 1886 after both his breathing and circulation completely ceased. Three days later, someone in the funeral procession noticed that Sai was breathing again. He went on to live another 32 years.

WORD WATCH

Hinga : from the Malay *engah*, 'pant, breathe heavily.'

PDI – November 11, 2001

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND REPAIR OF BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES in Public Biddings to be held in the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), Quezon City and Bacolod City offices:

FOR PUBLIC BIDDING	QUEZON CITY	BACOLOD CITY
I. Road Rehabilitation Equipment and Farm Machineries/Vehicles/ Implements and Tractors (Brand New and Reconditioned)	x	
II. Office Equipment/Training Facilities	x	x
III. Field/Laboratory Equipment & Apparatus		x
IV. Supply and Installation of Equipment for Irrigation Systems	x	x
V. Construction/Repair/Installation of Facilities/Buildings/Laboratories	x	x

To be delivered to different points in the Philippines.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES	QUEZON CITY	BACOLOD CITY
A. Pre-qualification forms shall be issued	Nov. 12	Nov. 19
B. Deadline for submission of requirements	Nov. 15	Nov. 22
C. Release of list of qualified bidders	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
D. Issuance of Bid Forms	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
E. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 26	Dec. 3
F. PUBLIC BIDDING	Dec. 10	Dec. 17

A non-refundable cost of Php500.00 each shall be charged for the bid forms.
The venue and time of the Pre-bid Conference and Public Biddings as scheduled shall be as follows:

Quezon City - SRA Social Hall at 9:00 a.m.
Bacolod City - SRA Bacolod at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 2.5% of the total cost of the tender or offer, either in cash, Manager's Check or Surety bond accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

For further inquiries, please call:

Quezon City - THE SECRETARIAT
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-68-37

Bacolod City - THE SECRETARIAT
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. (034) 434-51-23
(034) 435-37-59

SRA reserves the right to reject any or all applications on all bids without offering reasons, waive any formality and/or defect and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – Nov. 11 & 12, 2001)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Northern Negros Geothermal Project
The PNOC Energy Development Corporation

PNOC

1. The PNOC Energy Development Corporation, hereinafter referred to as the PNOC-EDC has received an ODA Loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the JBIC, in the amount of Japanese Yen 14,460,000,000 toward the cost of the Northern Negros Geothermal Project, Loan Agreement No. PH-P176, dated March 18, 1997 and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued. Disbursement of the ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans. No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to Loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   - (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   - (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC-ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract funded with JBIC-ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. PNOC-EDC intends to prequalify contractors for the following contract under this project. FULL TURNKEY 40 MW NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT PROJECT.
4. It is expected that Invitations to Bid will be made in January 29, 2002.
5. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from any country, in accordance with the Loan Agreement between JBIC and PNOC-EDC.
6. Applicants may obtain the prequalification documents after **November 19, 2001** by calling, writing, faxing, or telexing or by electronic mail:

   Chairman
   Contract Award Committee
   PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
   Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
   Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
   Telephone: (632) 893-6001
   Facsimile: (632) 840-1461
   E-mail: guevara@energy.com.ph
7. The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for FULL TURNKEY 40 MW NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT PROJECT.

   The documents are available for a nonrefundable fee of Philippine Pesos 5,000 by cash or US Dollar 100 by telegraphic transfer, upon receipt of the fee, PNOC-EDC will promptly dispatch the documents by registered airmail but under no circumstances will it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed. Applicants may uplift the documents in person.
8. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

   Chairman
   Contract Award Committee
   PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
   Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
   Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines

   not later than **January 7, 2002** and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for FULL TURNKEY 40 MW NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT PROJECT.
9. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
10. Applicants will be advised, in due course of the results of their applications. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid.

(Sgd.) SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL

(PDI – Nov. 10 & 11, 2001)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-02-001)

An International organization is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of residential maintenance and warehousing services. The Contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by the international organization. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates or at fixed rates on an hourly/daily basis as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are to begin on or about May 1, 2002 and end April 30, 2004 with options to renew the contract. A direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 02-001 which may be obtained starting on **November 19, 2001** at USAID, Office of the Regional Procurement, 8F PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. For inquiries contact (632) 552-9924 look for May Bringula.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Medical Equipment to bid for the same at the Cobalt Building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 23, 2001**, Friday, 2:00 PM at the same venue for any clarifications. Opening of the Bids is scheduled on **November 29, 2001**, Thursday, at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue. Late Bidders shall be disqualified.

Instructions to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of at the office of the Chief, Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo, after payment in cash of P300.00 at the Cashier's Office at the main hospital building, from **November 19, 2001** to **November 23, 2001** from 8:00 to 3:00 PM.

The BAC shall award the contracts to suppliers with the lowest calculated bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government. The decision of the BAC is final.

Inquiries may be made with the BAC Secretariat, c/o Mrs. Teresa C. Fajardo at 442-62-30.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL V. FACTORA, M.D., MHA**
Medical Center Chief
BGHMC

(PDI – Nov. 9, 10 & 11, 2001)

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"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

In Memory Of

Ester Tagle Madlansacay

of Imus, Cavite (1920-2001)

Peacefully joined Our Creator, her father ***Ceferino F.*** *and mother* ***Crispina C. Tagle*** *on November 9, 2001 at the age of 81.*

Ester is a lovely, devoted and loving sister, whose family was the center of her life. She lived with grace and class. She will be supremely missed.

Her family members **Dr. Amado** and **Rita Ruiz (†)**, **Natividad** and **Felix S. Costa Sr. (†)**, **Elpidia** and **Dr. Manuel S. Gonzales (†)**, **Leonardo** and **Dra. Priscilla G. Ilem**, **Benjamin** and **Estelita B. Morales**, **Fidel** and **Pura M. Lara** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 452 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite.

The final services will be held on November 13, 2001 at Imus Cemetery after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at Imus Cathedral.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

You will be forever in our hearts,

GUILLERMINA "Emma" SOLLER-BUENCAMINO

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 7, 2001 at the age of 61.

Her bereaved husband **Fiel**; children and their spouses **Bong & Marlie**, **Dinky & Pen**, **Francis**, **Fielito & Charmaine**, and **Don**; grandchildren **Jabby**, **Angela** and **Diego**; sisters **Lydia S. Aherrera**, **Evelyn S. Liquete**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Services are held nightly at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Service.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dr. Enrico S. Belen

who joined his Creator on September 11, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who condoled with us during our time of bereavement.

"May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rain fall soft upon your fields,
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you,
in the palm of His hand."

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

JESUS ANG CASIM

who joined his Creator on November 5, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

CARD OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Lourdes Ireneo Magsino

who passed away on October 17, 2001

and

Jovencio "Venci" I. Magsino, Jr.

who passed away on October 11, 2001

of Lemery, Batangas

To those who offered prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral services and who in countless other ways condoled, helped and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

May GOD bless you a hundredfold
for your kindness.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

Thank You

for your Sympathy

The family of the late

Earl Daniele O. Cañete

acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

FELICIDAD "ELING" PAGSANJAN BERNARDO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 9, 2001 at the age of 88.

Survived by her son **Francisco, Jr.** and wife **Luz** and grandchildren **Melody Anne** and husband **Glen**, **Jay** and wife **Dina** and **Christian**.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on November 14, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Chapel.

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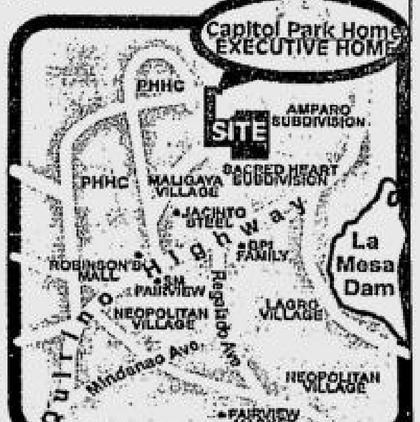

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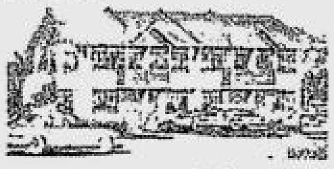

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of Deceased ERNIE T. GUERRERO who died on March 6,2000, the object of Settlement is executed by his heirs executed before Not. Public Expedito Mapa of Naga City as per Doc.#861 Page#87 Book #18 Series of 2001PDI Nov.11, 18 &25 20011

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LOURDES M. CARINO has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 63 Page13 Book1 Series 2001 of Not Pub Ma Julieta C Santos of Q.C.
(PDI-10/28, 11/4&11,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

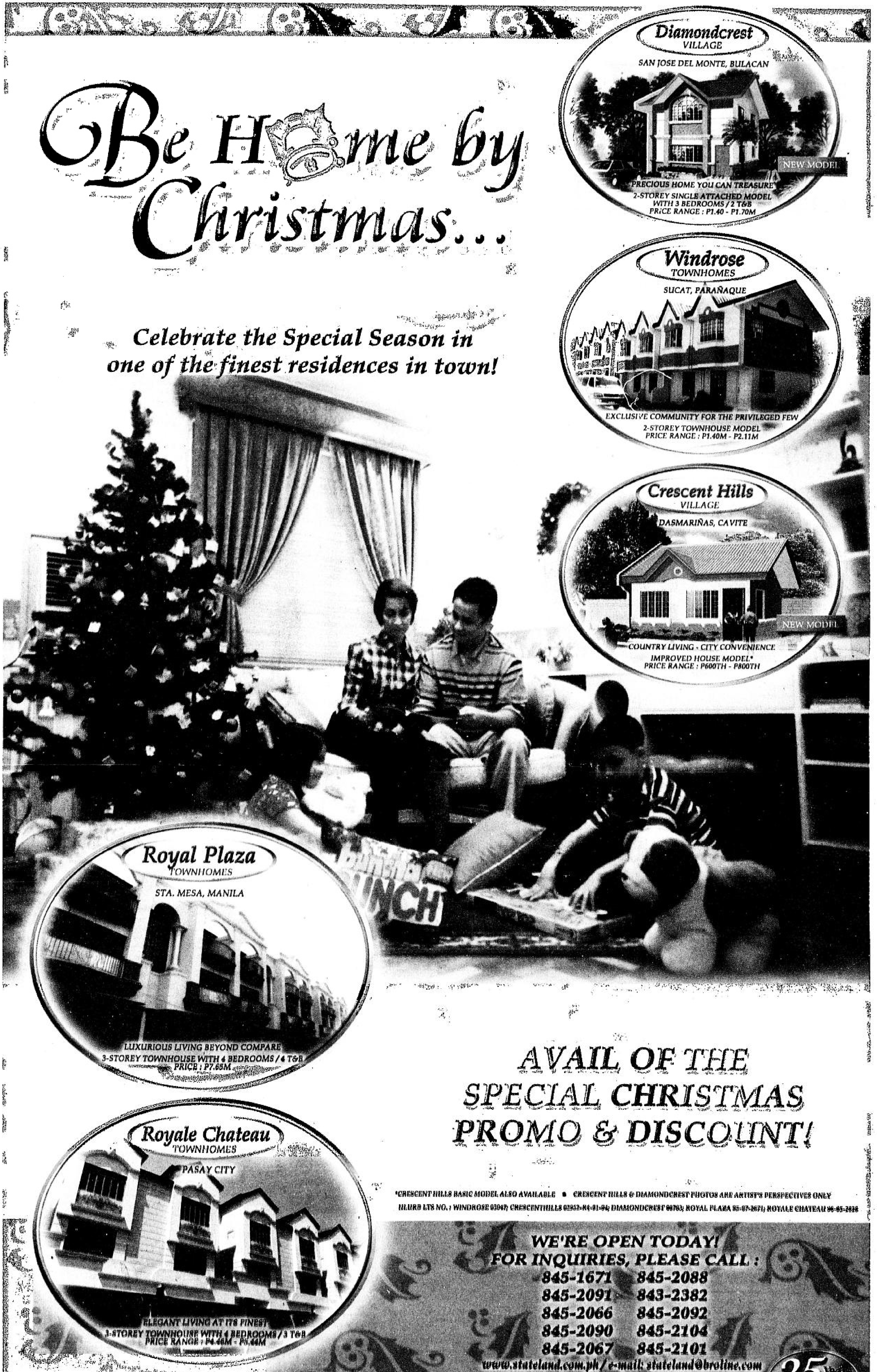
Notice is given that S.B.Y.C. Stock Cert. #000978 under the name of Barry Bailey was lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued (PDI-Nov. 4, 11 & 18, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.



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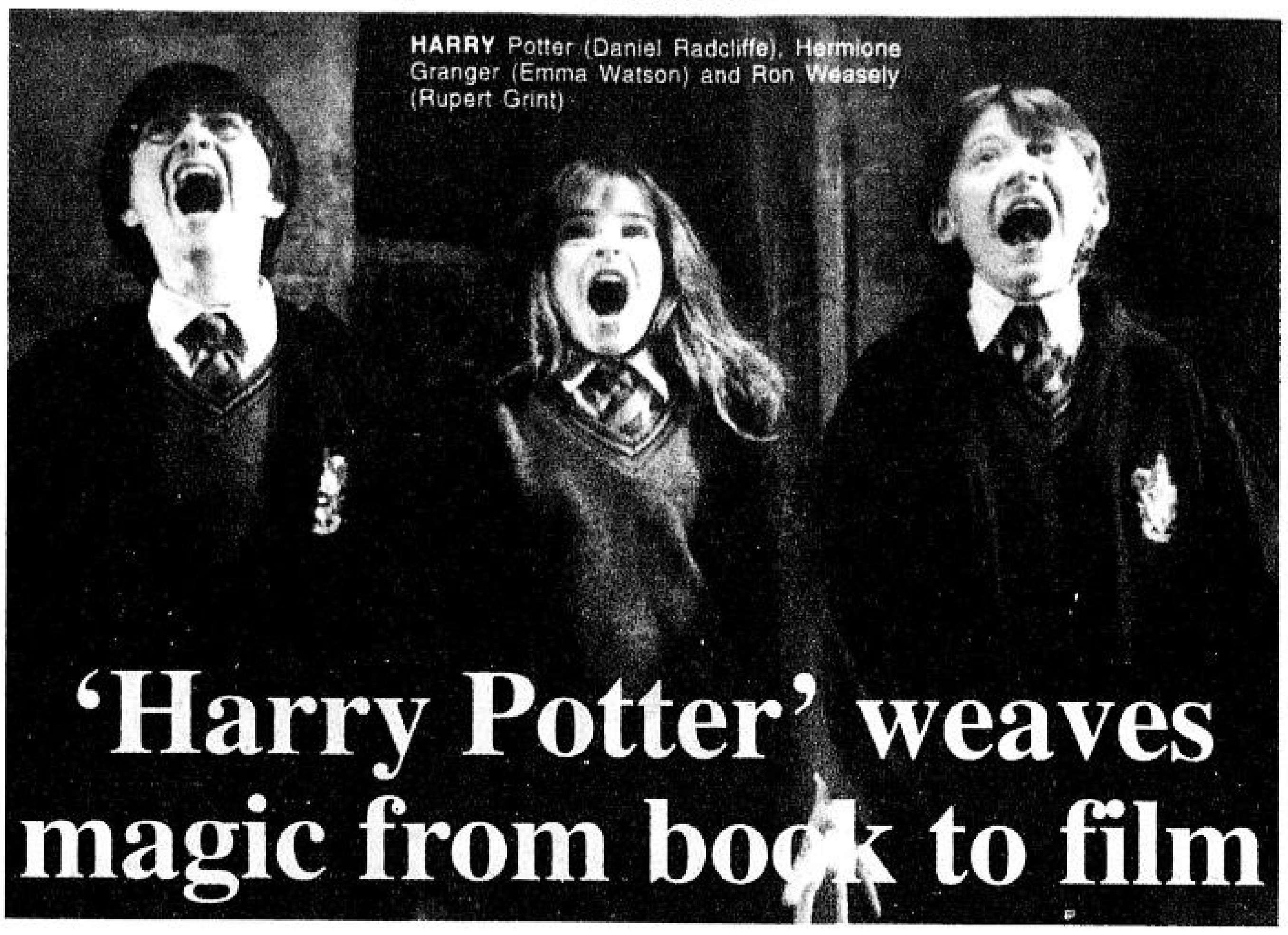
HARRY Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) and Ron Weasely (Rupert Grint)

'Harry Potter' weaves magic from book to film

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Direct from London, the INQUIRER brings you an exclusive first look at the movie adaptation the world has been waiting for

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

LONDON—They actually did it. This is what you will think when "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" begins to shimmer before you. As Prof. Aldus Dumbledore (a wizened Richard Harris) begins to walk down Privet Drive, anyone who has read the "Harry Potter" books will draw a sharp breath and realize that the book has truly, and successfully, been transfigured into a movie. And just wait until you see that beautiful Hogwarts Express cutting a swath through the countryside. You'd think you have died and left all other Muggles behind.

Adapting any successful novel to a motion picture is always a heady task, with notable highs ("The English Patient" by Michael Ondaajte) and lows ("The Firm" by John Grisham). When the book being adapted is the first of J.K. Rowling's worldwide bestseller, then the challenge is more difficult than breaking into Gringotts.

But what director Chris Columbus (of the "Home Alone" movies) has done, together with screenwriter Steve Kloves ("The Fabulous Baker Boys"), is conjure up a lovingly accurate adaptation of "Harry Potter." The movie itself, to the hard-core fans and to the "Potter" neophytes, is just magic.

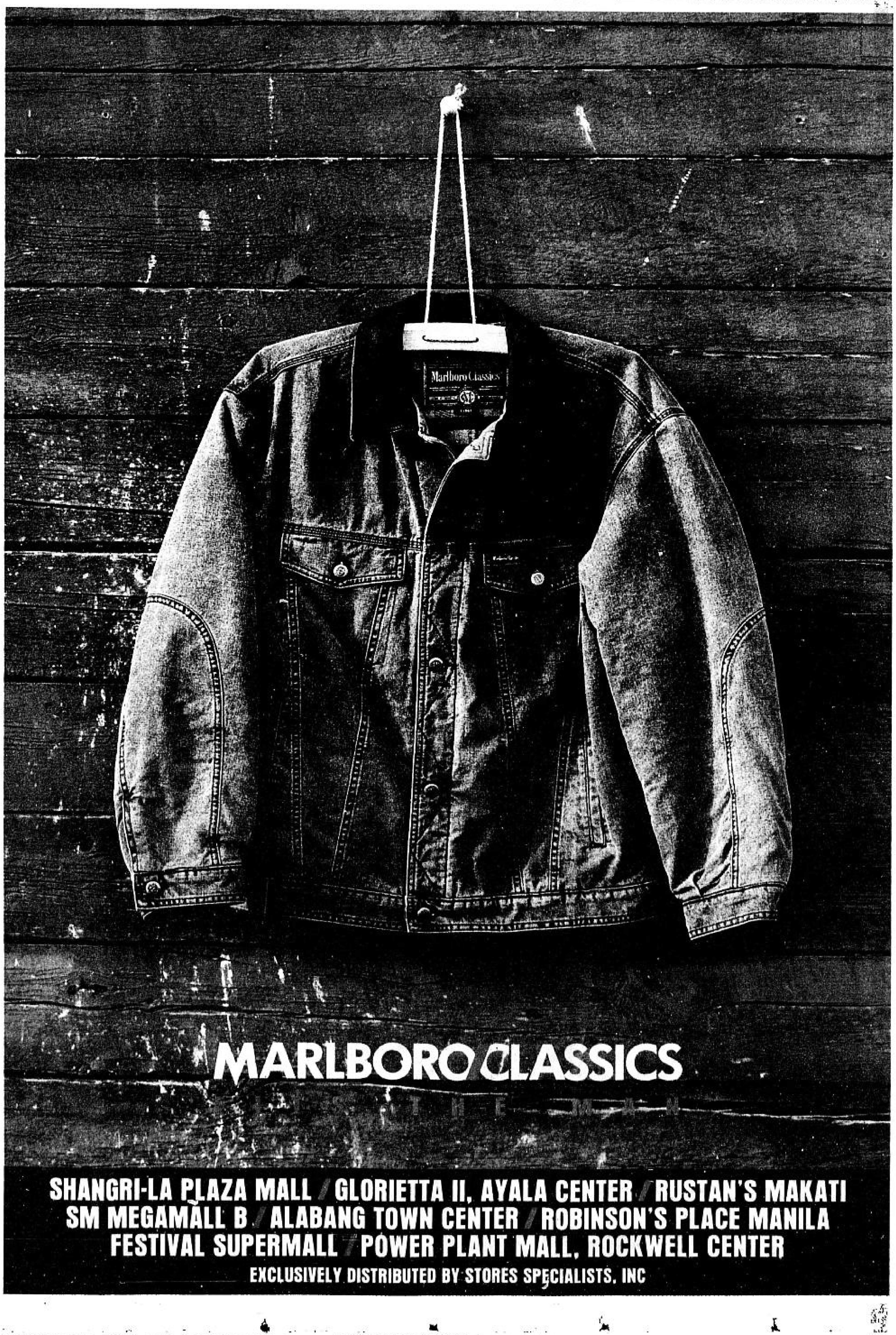
Cues from book

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" takes its cues almost completely from the novel. It tells the story of how Harry Potter (played calmly and endearingly by Daniel Radcliffe), upon turning 11, finds out he is a wizard and gains entry into the renowned Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry—and a whole other life full of potions, broomsticks and the occasional troll. At Hogwarts, he also meets wiseacre Ron Weasely (Rupert Grint) and whipsmart Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) and together the three friends will try to make it through the first year while uncovering strange goings-on at Hogwarts. Meanwhile, a mysterious figure from Harry's past hovers menacingly nearby, waiting to strike.

Columbus arrives at a new high point in his work, unspooling "Harry Potter" with a wide-eyed sense of wonder as well as a steady hand. His respect for the material is obvious, and his detailed eye has turned the movie into a virtual banquet of visual delights, from the colorful (and unconventional) shops in Diagon Alley to the mesmerizing scenes in Hogwarts. Columbus and Oscar-winning cinematographer John Seale ("The English Patient") grab the viewer by the robes in the first scenes and propels him through the movie with assured poise. Most notably, this is no light-footed, moral-lesson spewing heart-warmer. It's a real adventure, full of peril and pleasures, sometimes all in the same scene.

HARRY/p.C6

HARRY (Daniel Radcliffe) and Hedwig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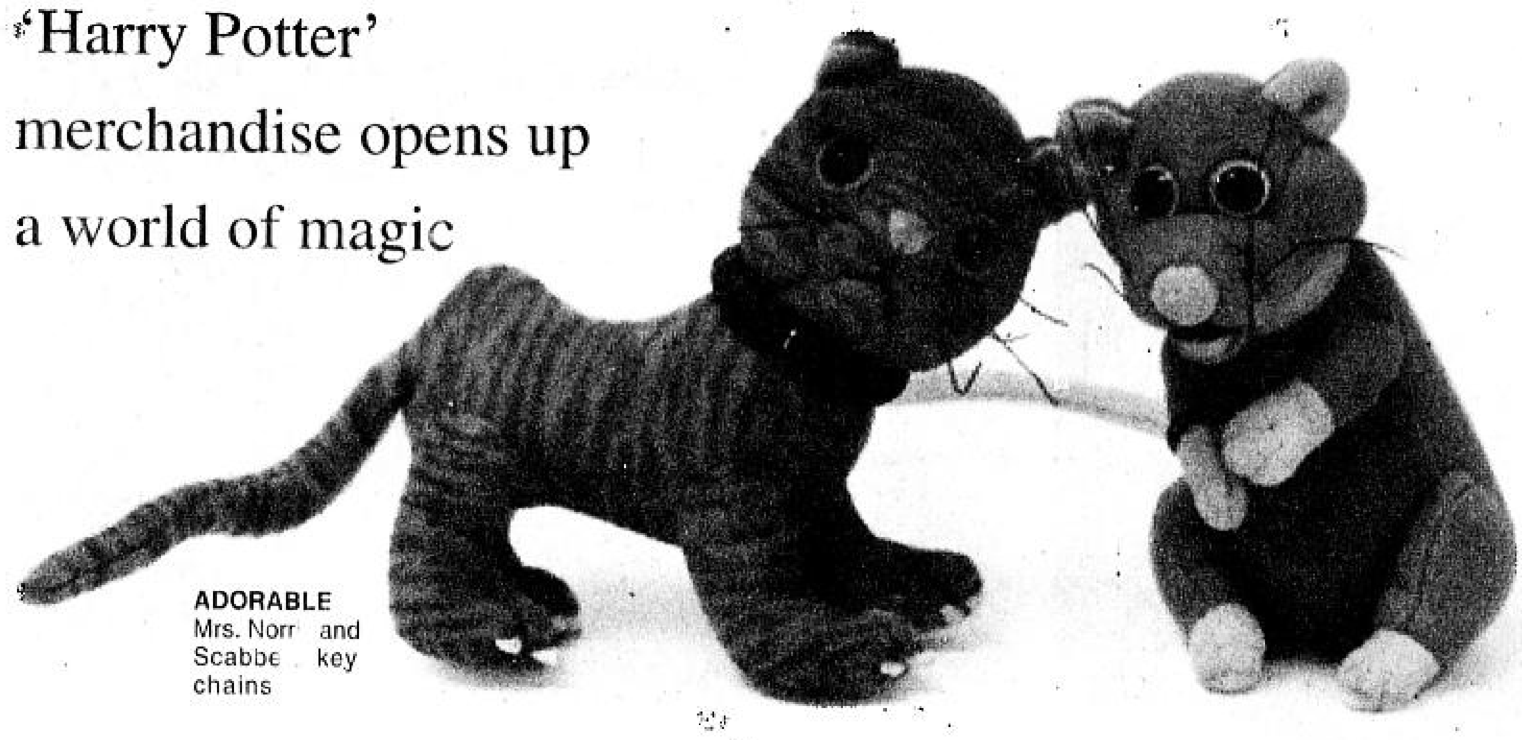
‘Harry Potter’ merchandise opens up a world of magic



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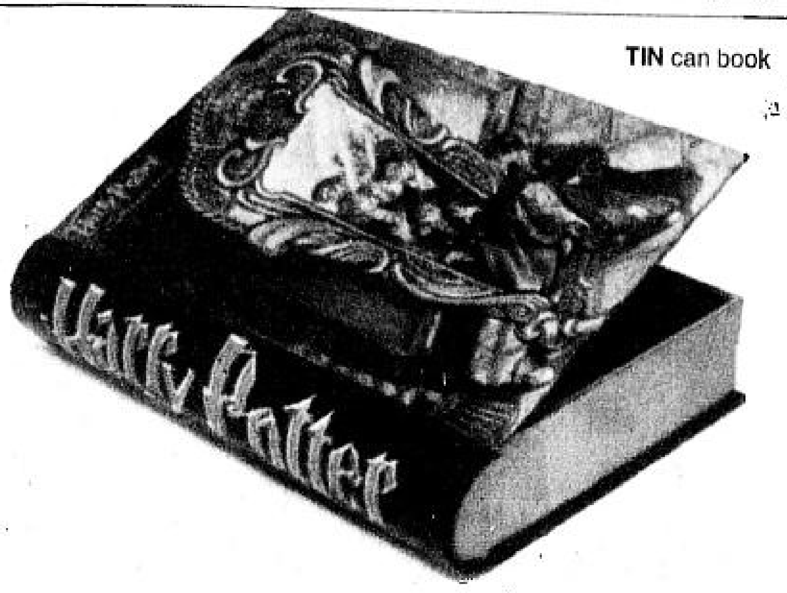
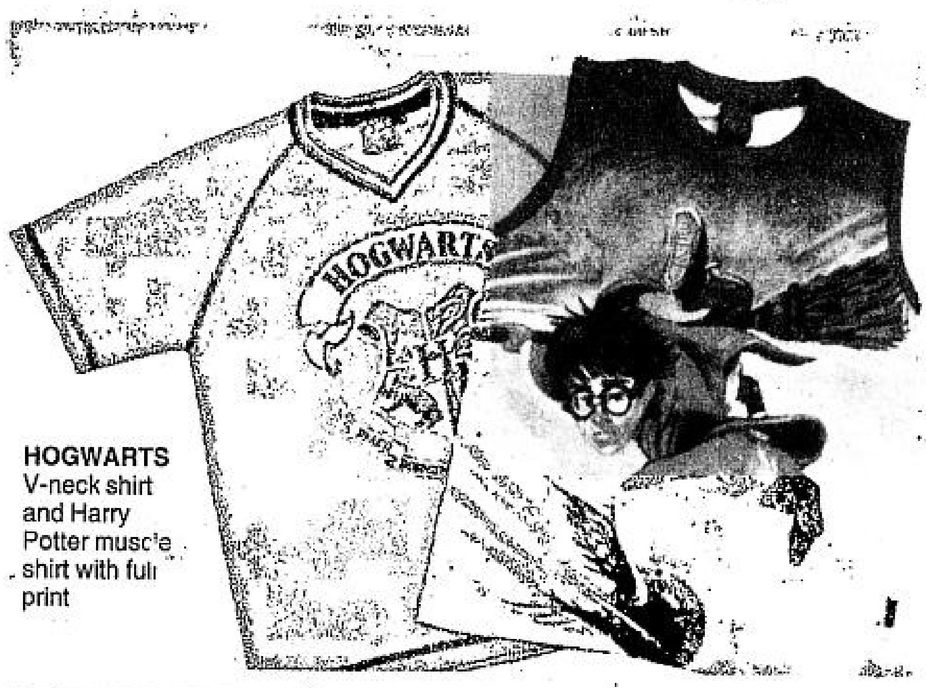


TIN can book

Take home a piece of magic



HOGWARTS V-neck shirt and Harry Potter muscle shirt with full print

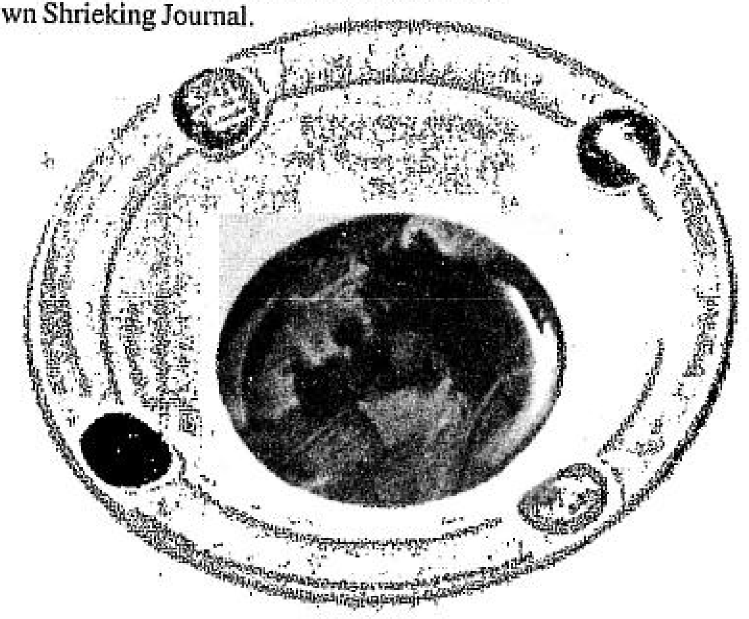
YOU’VE read and reread the books, memorized the charms and even relived those exciting Quidditch matches with your friends. Now Robinsons Department Store (RDS) lets you take home a piece of Harry Potter’s wizarding world.

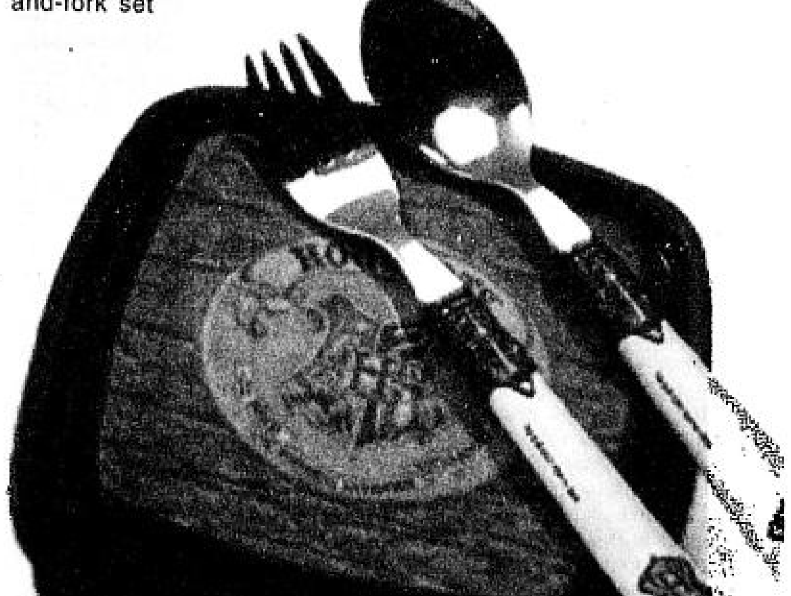
Up to Dec. 15, RDS Galleria, Ermita, Metro East, Imus and Bacolod will carry a selection of “Harry Potter” merchandise—from children’s apparel to quality toys—that you can own or give away as perfect Christmas presents to your Potter-crazy family and friends.

From the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry comes shirts and shorts, magic mugs, coin banks, travel tumblers, tumbler sets, lunch kits, spoon-and-fork sets and more.

Then there are the must-have Harry Potter dolls, costume kits and wall clocks; Mrs. Norris stuff toys; Sorting Hat, Scabbers and Bertie Botts key chains; and Draw & Color Desks. You can even take home your very own Shrieking Journal.

MINIATURE clock with the Gryffindor seal





HARRY Potter bowl, lunch kit and spoon-and-fork set

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CLASS ACT. Professor McGonagall (Maggie Smith), Hermione (Emma Watson), Ron (Rupert Grint) and Harry (Daniel Radcliffe)

Blackout is time to talk

By Butch J. Pajarillo

I TURNED the five power-less evening hours of Blackout Sunday, Nov. 4, into an opportunity for family bonding. At last, my wife, my two GenX teenagers and I could have more time to talk. Technology couldn't stand in the way: no TV, no Internet, no karaoke. Hooray!

The first chance at talk was with my daughter, 16. By a flickering candle, she was seriously writing on a notebook at the dining table. My daughter, a high school junior, has been a dedicated student. She spends hours surfing the Internet or word-processing her assignments.

"I can help you do your geometry," I said, attempting to draw her into a conversation. As a parent, I felt proud that she was trying her best to earn high grades to the point that she would do her work during a blackout. "You don't have to strain your eyes doing your homework."

> With no TV, no Internet and no karaoke, what else is there to do but bond?

Suddenly, a yellow-green glow of light illuminated her face. It turned out she had a cell phone in her left hand.

"Thanks, Dad," she said. "But I can copy phone numbers from my address book faster by myself."

I looked for my son, 17. All I could see was his silhouette in the den. He was lying on a sofa bed. Poor kid. I could tell from the dark outline that he was taking a rest. From hours of reviewing for his coming exams, I bet.

"Son," I said, "if you want to take a break, I can bring you the transistor radio. It has fresh batteries. You can listen to the music. I can tell you are very tired."

"I'll go get the radio myself, Dad," a voice in the dark said. "Just give me some time. I'm on the phone right now."

I couldn't tell in the dark that he was parked by the telephone. Ahh, but it must be an important call. I wonder why he always takes so long on the telephone especially when he's talking to a girl. I didn't have the heart to interrupt him even if I had to miss this opportunity to bond more with him.

I thought I would have a better chance talking with my wife. As fellow baby-boomers, we weren't welded to technology like our two kids.

My wife was cooking. "Would you like to hear a horror story?" I asked. "It's about a *kapre* in my hometown in Negros."

"No, I don't want to listen to a horror story," she said. "If you tell me what you did about this time when you were 5 years old, you'll stand a better chance."

I thought she was faking interest.

"Okay, no horror story. Just a real story about my heroism," I said. "I'll tell you about the time I saved eight cousins and how the whole town of Cadiz hailed me as a hero."

"You were a hero at 5? Interesting."

"Yes, I saved eight cousins from being eaten alive by a *kapre* in Negros."

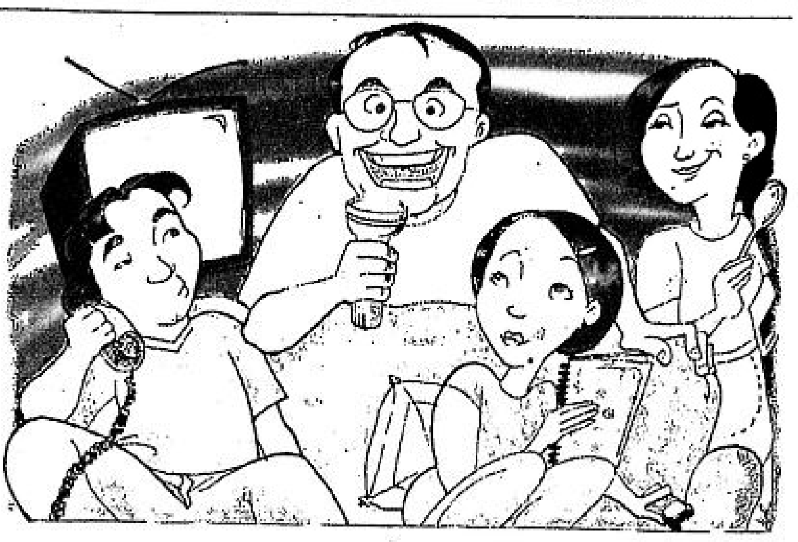

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I told her the story, inventing things as I went along. She caught me lying when I got to the parts where (1) I wrestled with a fierce, fanged Chihuahua [Who let that dog out? Who? Who? Who? Who?] and (2) I saved my eight cousins when I called up the police for help using a cell phone.

"A cell phone when you were 5?" she said, and I thought I saw my words literally wafting into her right ear and out the other.

"How about another story about when you were 5½?"

She stirred the soup some more. And that's what I like about blackouts. My family and I get to have a lot of time to talk unaided by technology.

Nourish your child's bones with calcium orange drink

As children go through various stages of development, their bodies require a lot of nourishment to help them attain maximum growth potential. One of the most important processes that children undergo is bone development. From birth until early adulthood, their bones are constantly forming and growing, so the intake of nutrients that will support proper bone development is crucial.

For children, proper bone development means achieving maximum bone mass to ensure that they are less prone to bone-related injuries especially as they engage in sports and other activities.

But how do you ensure that bones are formed and maintained properly? One of the key factors that contribute to proper bone development is consuming the appropriate intake of calcium. A number of studies have shown that calcium is essential for building strong and healthy bones.

Recognizing this important dietary requirement, Kraft Foods Philippines, the makers of Hi-Nutrition Tang has charged the powdered orange drink again, this time with calcium, the nutrient essential for proper bone development. So as kids naturally grow taller, their bones get stronger with the help of Hi-Nutrition Tang – now charged with calcium!

This is by no means surprising since Hi-Nutrition Tang has always put a premium on nutrition. It was the first powdered orange drink in the country to be enhanced with Vitamin A in line with the Department of Health's nutrition program, for which Hi-Nutrition Tang was awarded the *Sangkap Pinoy* seal.

"Children need all the help for them to grow properly and become stronger. At Kraft, we put that foremost in our minds when we look for ways to enhance our products," said Jo Garde, Kraft Foods Philippines Marketing Manager.

Now, children can enjoy the same orange taste they love and get more of the nutrition they need with the help of Hi-Nutrition Tang – now charged with calcium!

NOW CHARGED WITH CALCIUM
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Tang takes a step ahead in nutrition

When it comes to the health of Filipinos, trust Hi-Nutrition Tang to continually improve its efforts in offering a drink that is not only delicious but also nutritious.

Hi-Nutrition Tang was the first powdered orange drink in the country to be awarded by the Department of Health (DOH) with the *"Sangkap Pinoy"* seal, for having been fortified with Vitamin A, a critical micronutrient needed by many Filipinos.

The DOH has confirmed Hi-Nutrition Tang's Vitamin A enhancement has been an effective vehicle in promoting the *Sangkap Pinoy* seal for its food fortification program. This was proven by a study conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute in 1999 which showed that Hi-Nutrition Tang was among the top 5 products with the *Sangkap Pinoy* seal patronized by consumers.

Soon after Hi-Nutrition Tang's trail-blazing efforts as one of the first products to be given recognition for its nutrition fortification, the DOH actively pushed for wider implementation of Republic Act 8976 or the Philippine Food Fortification program, which the *Sangkap Pinoy* seal of quality is an integral component of.

But Hi-Nutrition Tang continues its efforts to enhance its products with nutrients that help kids grow healthy and strong. Now, Hi-Nutrition Tang provides children with a more nutritious orange drink by charging it up with calcium, a nutrient that is essential for proper bone development.

Kraft Foods Philippines Marketing Manager, Jo Garde said, "Tang charged with calcium is another way of heeding the call of the DOH to elevate health standards in the country and promote the well-being of Filipinos, particularly children."

Now, Hi-Nutrition Tang – Now charged with calcium helps children have stronger bones as they grow taller, to help them be ready for challenges both at school and at play.

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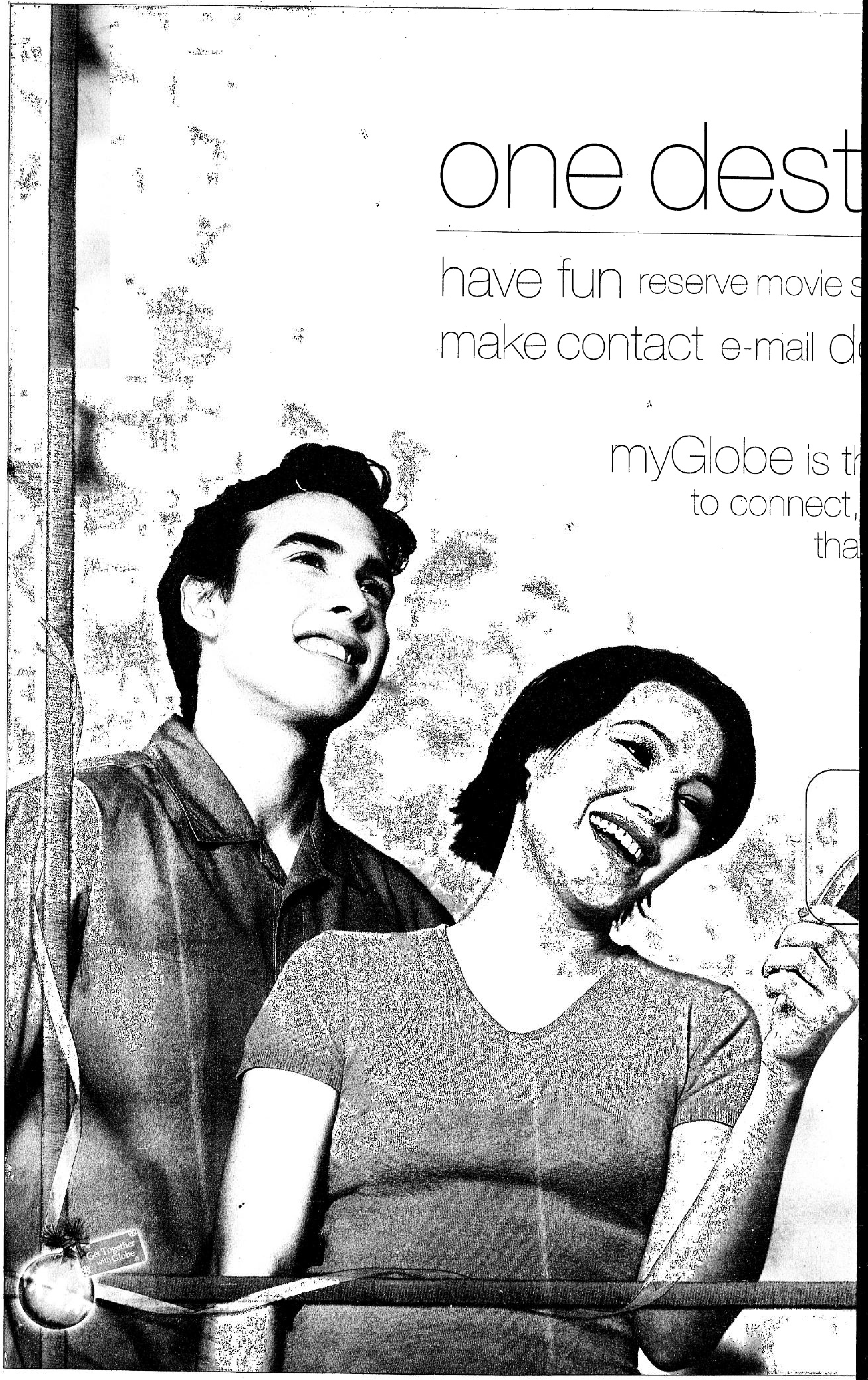
Hi-Nutrition TANG is now charged with calcium! It has the orange taste na love na love ng kids. So as kids grow taller, their bones get stronger.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SECURITY was tight as Leicester Square's Odeon is transformed into Muggle Central for the premiere.

THIS biker brakes for Harry.

'Potter' mania sweeps London

Will 'Harry Potter' become the iceberg to sink the 'Titanic'?

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY RUEL DE VERA

LONDON—The signs are everywhere. Literally. On the sides of tall buildings, on the sides of the distinctive double-decker buses, on T-shirts and on every magazine, TV channels and newspaper. "Harry Potter" has taken over London.

J.K. Rowling's phenomenal best-selling series has always been popular here in Britain's capital, but the build-up to the Nov. 16 opening of the movie adaptation has driven Pottermania to new heights. Directed by Chris Columbus, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" (as it is known here) has captured the imagination of London's populace, young and old.

That was plain to see last Nov. 4, when the movie's world premiere was held in busy Leicester Square. What was usually a hub for bargain ticket-hunters was cordoned off for the red carpet reception, while the huge Odeon Theatre at Leicester was transfigured into a medieval castle.

Hours before the glittering cast of celebrities had arrived, many "Potter" fans had already begun milling around the Square, some dressed up as the title character themselves, and one boy came complete with a stuffed toy owl as Hedwig.

The numbers supporting the movie are already phenomenal. Rowling's four "Harry Potter" books have some in excess of 120 millions copies worldwide in 46 languages. Rowling herself recently placed no. 14 in the Sunday Times list of highest-earning persons with an estimated £24.8 million, and she is notably the second-highest ranked woman on the Times list, after only Madonna. And all this before the movie had opened.

Yet the financial fate of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" could be even more impressive. London is the tip of the iceberg, the Normandy beach for the "Potter" invasion. It is the test bed for possible box-office immortality. And here, the movie has already broken record weeks before it opens.

More than £1million in tickets has already been presold this early and the movie will open on more than a thousand screens here in the United Kingdom. Then there is the huge potential in merchandise. "Harry Potter" knickknacks are already hot—and ubiquitous—property in London, where the movie's geegaws already occupy their own cushy corner in the venerable toy store Hamley's. "Harry Potter" toys and merchandise is clearly the must-have Christmas gift this year and the stuff is literally flying off the shelves and into London homes. The four books remain extremely hot sellers and more people are picking up the first book in anticipation of the movie's opening. Add to that the staggering £100 million deal struck between "Harry" and Coca-Cola, and you have the makings of a real box-office Norwegian Ridgeback.

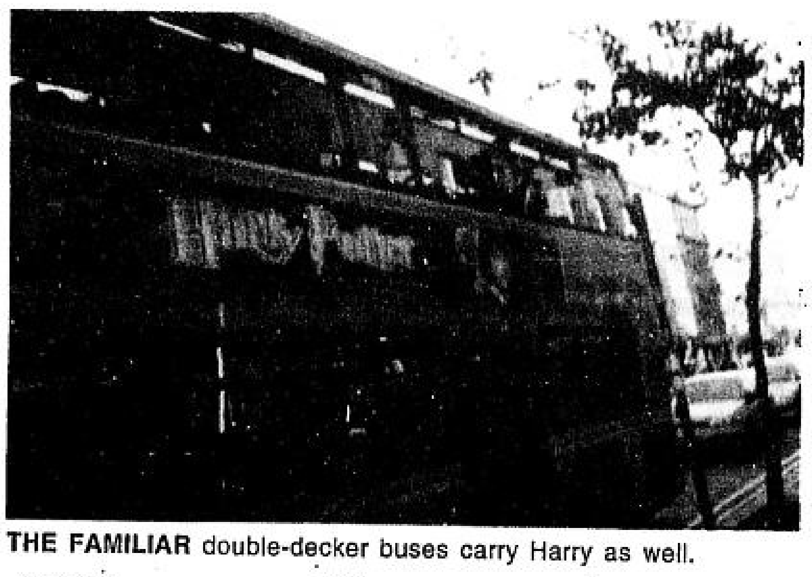
The hype surrounding the movie, and the expectations of its possible box-office impact, have already been so sizeable that there is constant chatter in London about how "Harry" will most likely sink a certain "Titanic" boat as cinema's biggest earner ever.

If the scene in London is to be taken as any indication, that "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" (known in the Philippines and the US as "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone") will cast its spell on all countries worldwide, becoming the iceberg that sank "Titanic." The moment of truth will come when "Harry" opens in the Philippines on Nov. 21. But, from the country of Harry Potter's birth, it all seems like a foregone conclusion.

Because it really does seem that London, and the rest of the world soon enough, has gone mental and magical over "Harry."

NEMAS NOVEMBER 16
Harry Potter
AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

"**HARRY** Potter" looms large over London's streets.



THE FAMILIAR double-decker buses carry Harry as well.

THIS young fan is all Pottered up for the premiere.

'Harry Potter' weaves magic from book to film

(From page C1)

The movie possesses two scenes that will particularly wow audiences to no end. When Harry plays his first game of Quidditch (a wizard's sport played on broomsticks), Columbus just lets loose. The scene is a vibrant explosion of action with players whizzing by, the crowd roaring, and the camera following the scene from crazy angles. This scene shows not only the movie's broad, magical feel, but also takes a part of the book and lifts it, fully grown, from the printed page to celluloid. Contrasting with the Quidditch's scene's exultant speed, the scene where Harry and friends play with a huge set of magical, maybe even menacing, wizard's chess (the pieces move and hit each other by themselves) is dark, serious but also gripping, with Columbus channeling perfectly the darker aspects of the books for children. It is a memorable but scary moment. These two scenes show not only the eye-popping quality of this movie's seamless special visual effects, but also the subtle workings of John Williams' magical score. Together, it is a breathtaking combination.

The performances are equally impressive. The three lead children are revelations. Natural and possessing great chemistry, Radcliffe, Grint and vivacious Watson in particular, are dead-on as Harry, Ron and Hermione, respectively. They bring a spontaneous yet accurate energy into their roles: Radcliffe with his serious yet soft demeanor, Grint with his irreverent outbursts, and Watson with her impatient intelligence. Together, the three younger actors unleash star-making performances.

Perfect casting

It cannot be stressed enough how much the perfect casting has aided this movie with regards to its authenticity and impact, and that goes beyond the lead three. Harris is perfect for Dumbledore, as are the delightfully proper Maggie Smith as Prof. Minerva McGonagall and the aptly severe, Alan Rickman as Severus Snape. And you will just hate the Dursleys, performed with appropriate bile by Richard Griffiths, Fiona Shaw and Harry Melling.

But the real scene-stealer here is Robbie Coltrane as the gamekeeper Rubeus Hagrid (he had appeared earlier in the James Bond movie "Goldeneye"). At once, Coltrane is gruff but humorous, loyal but emotional. His scenes with the three children, in particular, glow with a warm honesty. That being said, the other talented cast members, such as John Cleese and Julie Walters, seem a bit underused, but they should pop up in the sequels. John Hurt, in the minor role of wand maker Mr. Ollivander, chews up some scenery.

But perhaps the topic that will sow the most debate isn't so much what's in the movie, but what's not in it. Even as "Harry Potter" already clocks in at an impressive two-and-a-half hours, a considerable amount of Rowling's book is missing from the big screen version. While that should invite catcalls (and nasty spells) from Potter zealots, it doesn't hurt the movie as Columbus and Kloves have crafted a plot that can be accessible even for those who are not acquainted with Potter and company. Truth is, almost all the lines are directly taken from the book. It's always a difficult balance for movie adaptations; it's basically how to please the book's fans and yet satisfy the new audience. Yet with its own assured wizardry, "Harry Potter" does both.

No easy task

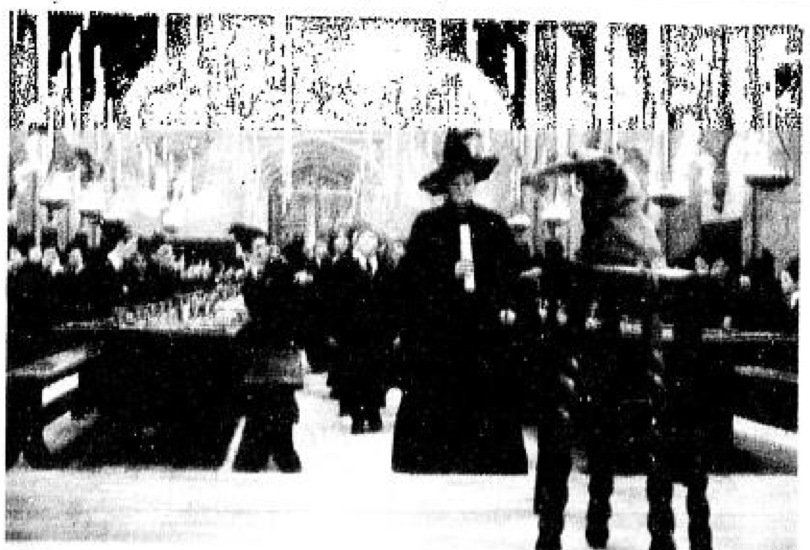
Adapting one of the most-loved books of the moment is no easy task. Yet Columbus and crew have done more than that. By being loyal to the book and yet understanding what an audience needs to get, "Harry Potter" brings its vision to the screen with a child-like euphoria and an accomplished sense of magic. This time the hype is real and much deserved.

Owing to its great special effects and fantastic casting, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" may just become the most successful adaptation ever; a different fairy-tale creature from the novel that stands on its own and yet is thoroughly linked to its great origins. This is a movie that stands as the next link in the long chain of great movies for children of all ages, joining titles like "Mary Poppins" and "E.T."

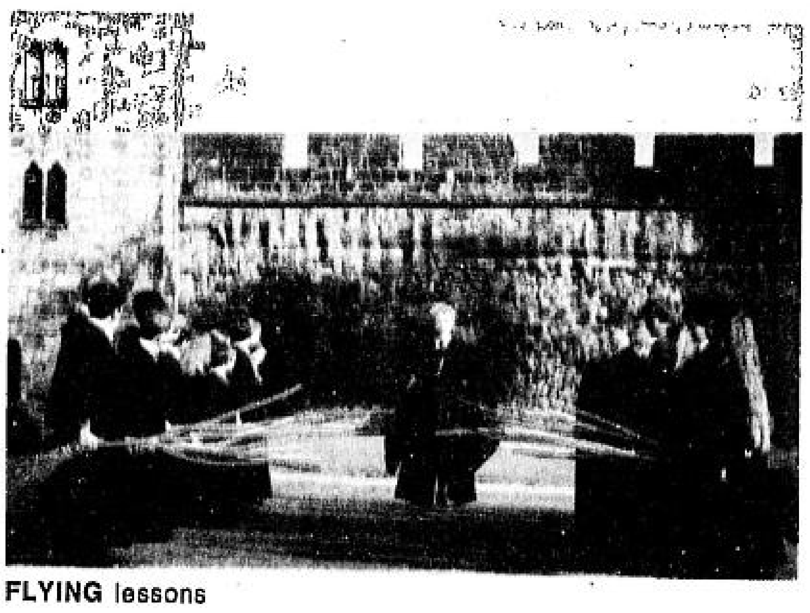
One won't need a truth spell to see that "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" is the latest example of true movie magic. It is now time to share that magic by coming to Hogwarts. All aboard.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" opens in Metro Manila theaters on Nov. 21.

HARRY Potter (Radcliffe) with the Dursleys

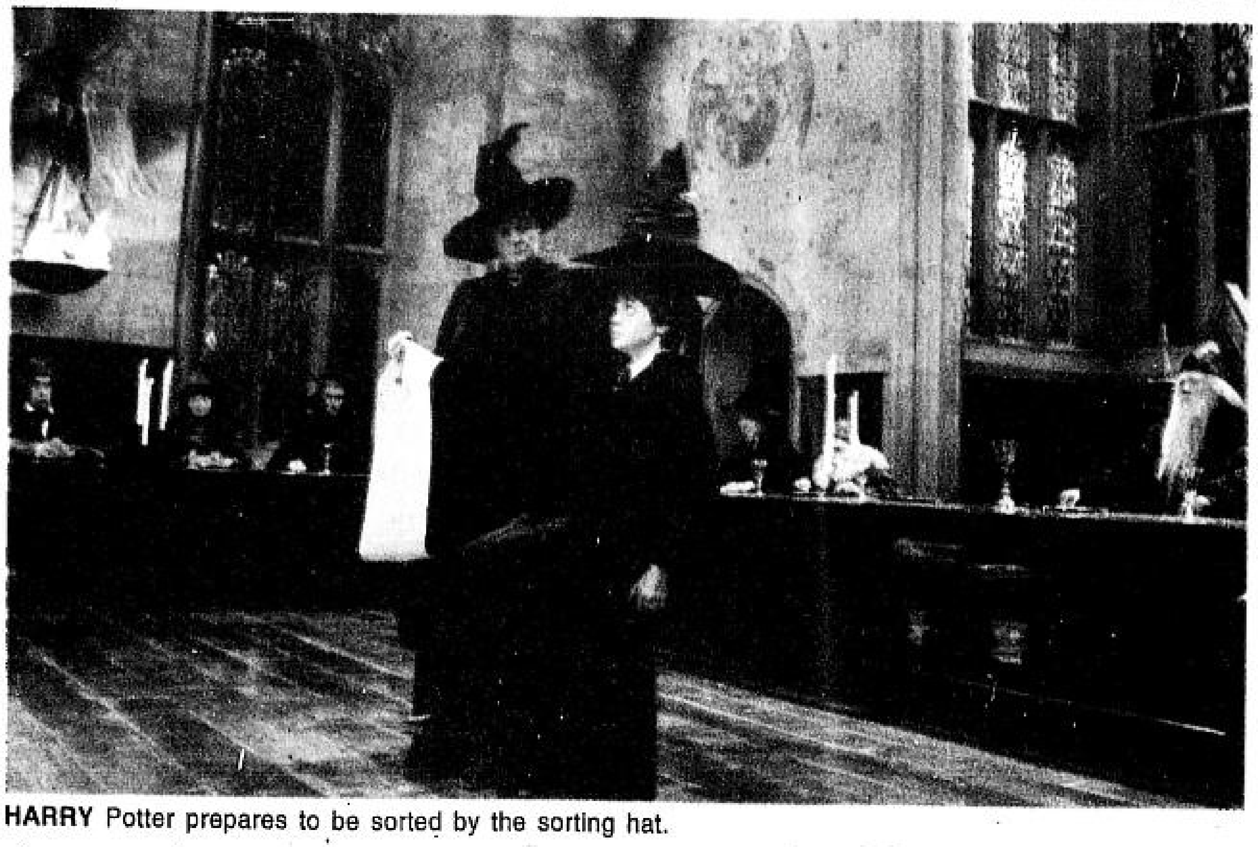


AT THE HOGWARTS with Prof. Minerva McGonagall (Maggie Smith)



FLYING lessons

RUBEUS Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane)



HARRY Potter prepares to be sorted by the sorting hat.

HERMIONE (Emma Watson), Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and Ron (Rupert Grint)

North America gets ready to board Hogwarts Express

(From page C8)

And Coca-Cola, which holds rights as the sole worldwide marketing partner for the film, is giving away hundreds of thousands of books as part of its promotional campaign.

AOL Time-Warner's chief executive Gerald Levin predicts "Harry Potter" will be Warner Brothers top-grossing movie ever. The all-time record is currently held by "Batman," released in 1989.

I was "mingling" at a happy-hour cocktail party recently and made the usual small talk over a pint of Guinness with a group of lawyers. Ho-hum... what I would have given for one of Harry's butterbeers at Hogsmeade instead... until one of them asked whether I had been sorted by the hat on the "Harry Potter" website. Gryffindor! I announced proudly. Yup, I had been sorted into Harry's House. Then again, not that anyone I know was ever put into Ravenclaw or Hufflepuff, anyway. I don't think the website was programmed to do that probably to make everyone who takes the test, feel good. After all, everyone would want to be put in Harry's House. For those on the darker side though, there is Slytherin. People who input some pretty nasty answers to get put in the same house as Draco Malfoy and Lord Voldemort... oops... I mean, You-Know-Who.

First trailer

I heard myself gasp one evening at the theater when the first trailer of the movie first came out. It was the highlight of the evening. I cannot remember what movie it was that we saw that night, but I do remember grabbing the arm of my best friend Sid and whispering loudly, "Oh! That's exactly how I imagined Hogwarts to look like! And the Great Hall with the long tables and fire torches! Oh... there's Harry! And Her-my-own-nee (I knew by then it wasn't pronounced Herm-yown)."

Yes! Sid agreed. That's how he pictured them in his mind, too. But hmmm... that slimy Draco Malfoy was a bit too thin (though his sidekicks Crabbe and Goyle were perfect!) and somehow he had imagined the Great Hall being a bit darker and dustier. And that Quidditch game... it looked pretty fake to Sid. But yes! That's Dumbledore the headmaster! And Hagrid the half-giant groundskeeper! The magical characters and settings had jumped out of the pages of our favorite books and our imagination onto the large screen in front of us.

The whole spectacle thrilled me to no end. I can't remember the last time we had been so excited about a movie clip. I must admit we were among millions of people all over the world who checked HarryPotter.com to see that trailer over and over again.

Harry's website is an adventure in itself. Loaded with bells and whistles, the journey took me from Kings' Cross Station Platform 9¾ in London via the Hogwarts Express to Harry's magical world.

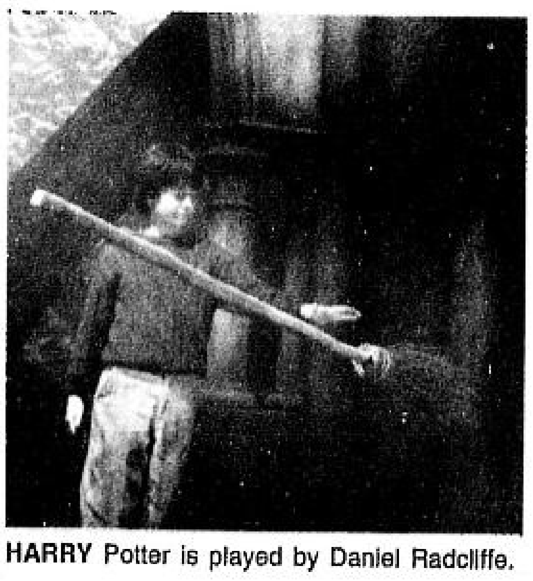
We've gone through Quidditch practice (beater training for me: protecting teammates from the bludger; and keeper training for Sid: blocking the quaffle and dodging the bludger) as well as a potions class with the shady Professor Snape (mixing spiders, bugs, bats and scaly reptiles). We've sent electronic postcards and howlers to friends and family via Owlpost and I've created my own magical creature pet toad. (Why not? Harry has Hedwig the Owl and Ron has Scabbers the Rat.)

And every day, I check the Daily Prophet, for the latest press releases, TV ads, chats with Harry's creator J.K. Rowling and... the official countdown clock to H-Day on Nov. 16.

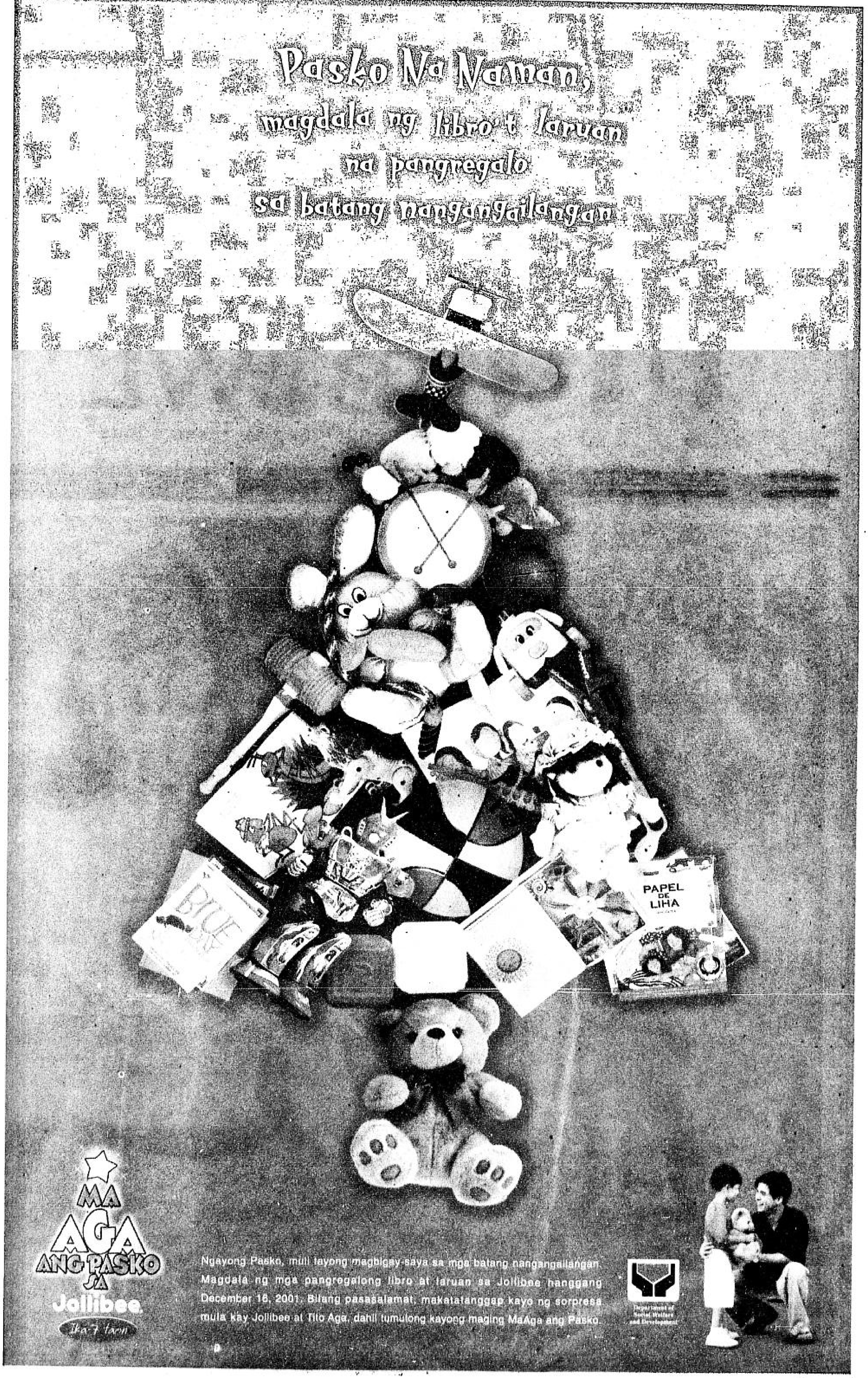
As of this writing, there are five days, one hour, two minutes and 54 seconds to go...

Now, if only we could get our hands on that Time-turner hourglass to go through time to get there already. All aboard the Hogwarts Express!

E-mail the author at LouisePanlilio@aol.com



HARRY Potter is played by Daniel Radcliffe.



Pasko Na Naman,
magdala ng libro't laruan
na pangregalo
sa batang nangangailangan
PAPEL DE LIHA
MA AGA ANG PASKO SA Jollibee
Ika-7 taon
Department of Social Welfare and Development

Ngayong Pasko, muli tayong magbigay-saya sa mga batang nangangailangan. Magdala ng mga pangregalong libro at laruan sa Jollibee hanggang December 16, 2001. Bilang pasasalamat, makatatanggap kayo ng sorpresa mula kay Jollibee at Tito Aga, dahil tumulong kayong maging MaAga ang Pasko.

North America gets ready to board Hogwarts Express

HARRY Potter and his pet owl prepare to make the long trip to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

BY LOUISE PANLILIO

NOV. 16, 2001. The date eagerly awaited by millions of people, young and old, all over the world.

It's the day the magical world of Harry Potter will be open to the Muggles universe via the silver screen.

I am one of Harry's later disciples. I didn't discover him till earlier this year and to be perfectly honest, decided to read about his adventures only so I'd finally have something in common with my 12-year-old cousin Jennifer.

But the moment I entered his world, there was no turning back. I was glued to his books everywhere I went. And it was interesting to discover that people all over the city couldn't have enough of him as well.

The snooty maitre d' at Café des Artistes on the Upper West Side who haughtily eyed the book I carried, and then whispered conspiratorially as he led me to a choice table, "Were you able to sleep last night? I can never pull myself away once a 'Harry Potter' book comes out."

> Just the 'Harry Potter' trailer is enough to send New Yorkers in a paroxysm of anticipation

The conductor on the train to Philadelphia who broke into my dreams in the pages of Diagon Alley to tell me, "My grandchildren and I... we've read all his books."

Even the doctor I was meeting for the first time. Doctors usually make me feel so vulnerable, a mere science specimen, sitting there in my paper gown. But Harry broke the ice.

"Can't wait for the movie!" she said cheerily, as she stuck a cold instrument into my ear. "I absolutely love him."

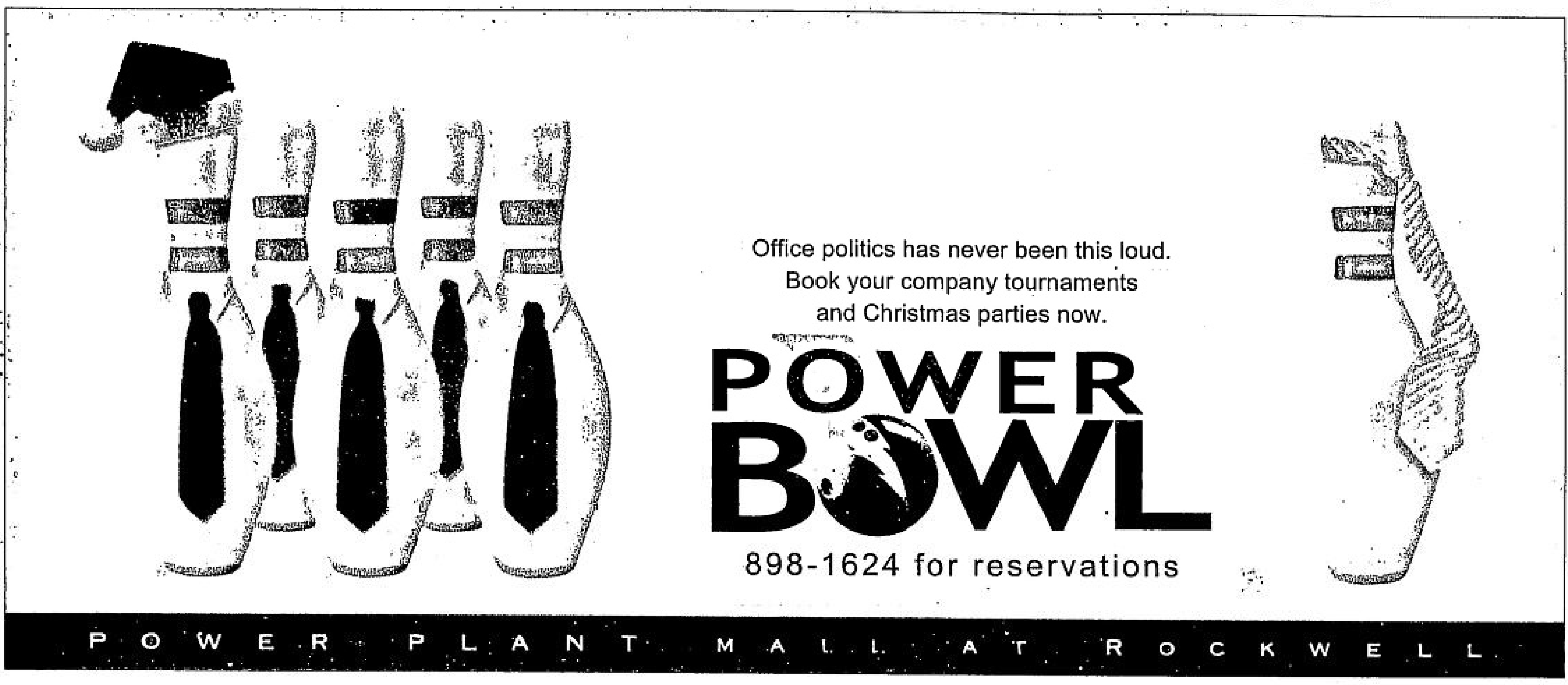
She wouldn't hurt a fellow Harry fan now, would she?

Gold mine

Over 110 million "Harry Potter" books are in print all over the world published in 47 languages in 200 countries. Analysts estimate the movie cost Warner Brothers $100 million to produce, but these same analysts and theater executives say it could bring in as much as $260 million in North American box-office sales. And that's just America! Talk about a wealth of galleons this could bring in for "Harry." Piles of gold in the Gringotts Bank!

The merchandisers are having a heyday. Sears is offering the grand prize of a trip to London to watch the world premiere as part of a sales promotion. Toy stores and book merchants have been selling "Harry Potter" calendars, posters, trading cards, stickers, bookends, notebooks, notepadthe works!—since last year's holiday season. Trivia games, Lego sets, sculptures and puzzles. Toymakers including Mattel and Hasbro are churning out figurines and board games.

NORTH/ p.C7



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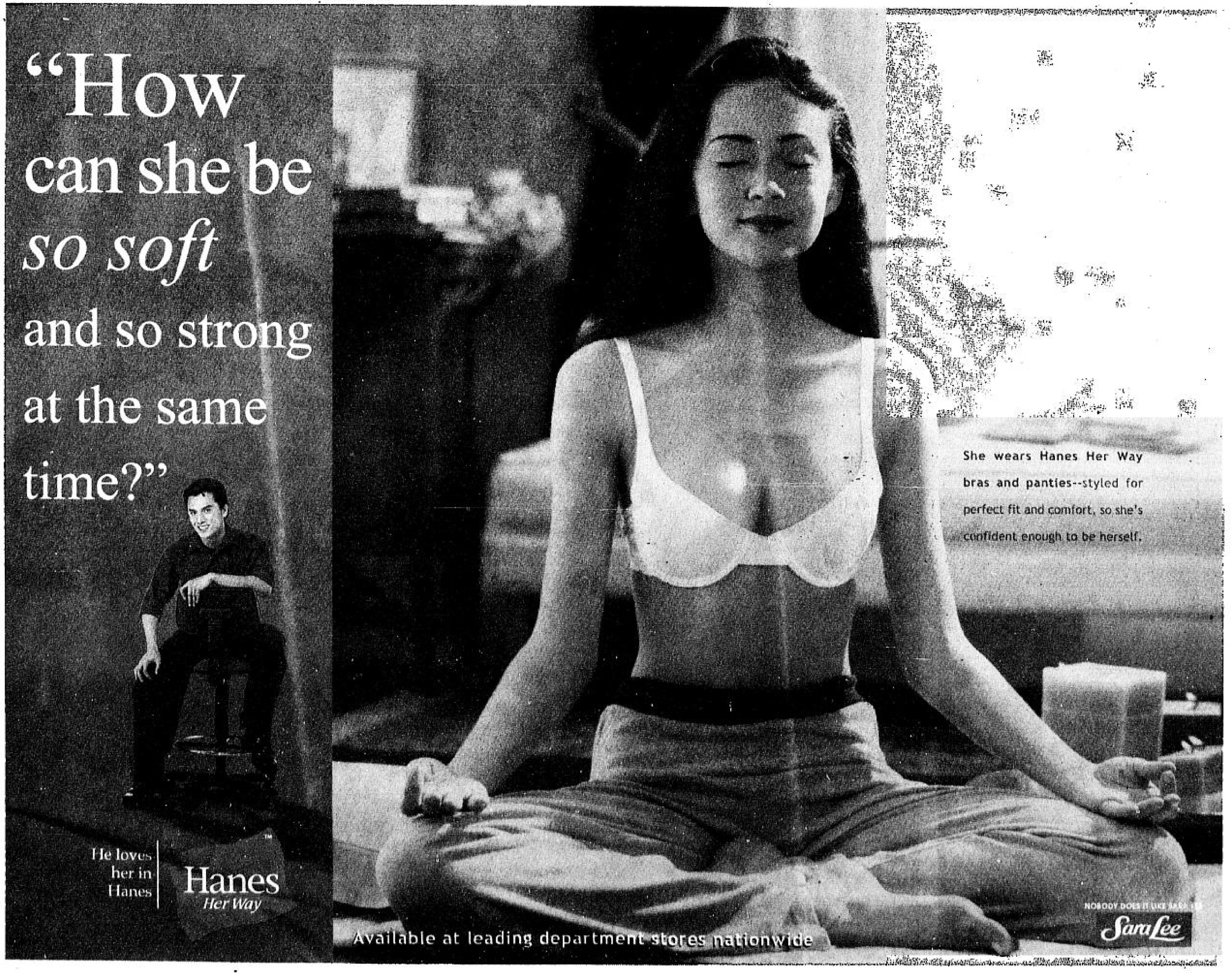

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Happy memories of Nida Blanca

By Cathy Babao Guballa

It's only right that someone who brought so much joy to this blighted world should be sent off to Paradise with her friends' warm remembrances

SHE brought joy and laughter to countless generations of Filipinos. As Marsha on the long-running sitcom "John en Marsha," she was the quintessential Pinoy middle-class mother. Nida Blanca was an icon, well-loved

HAPPY/ p.D3

GOLDEN GIRLS. Charito Solis, Nita Javier, Luz Valdez, Delia Razon, Marita Zobel, Lourdes Medel, Caridad Sanchez and Nida Blanca

SMART clubbing with DJ Paul van Dyk

ON NOVEMBER 16, Manila's club scene will be treated to a historic party night as leading wireless services provider Smart Communications, Inc. through Natural Born Klubbers (NBK) bring back world premier electronic artist and top-ranked DJ, Paul van Dyk to Manila. The event, called Politics of Dancing, will also feature DJ Manolet Dario, one of the country's top spin masters, who is expected to warm up the crowd.

Everyone's senses will be stimulated by NBK's extravagant production. World-class booming sound system and fantastic lighting effects provided by Radius will fill up cavernous halls of the 5,000-clubber-capacity Casino Filipino Amphitheater (across the street from the NAIA Terminal 1, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Paranaque City), this event's venue.

Young and talented John Batalla has been hired as lighting director and an awesome laser show by British outfit Argon Attraction will mesmerize the crowd. Massive visual effects by Solia will complement the multimedia creative brew.

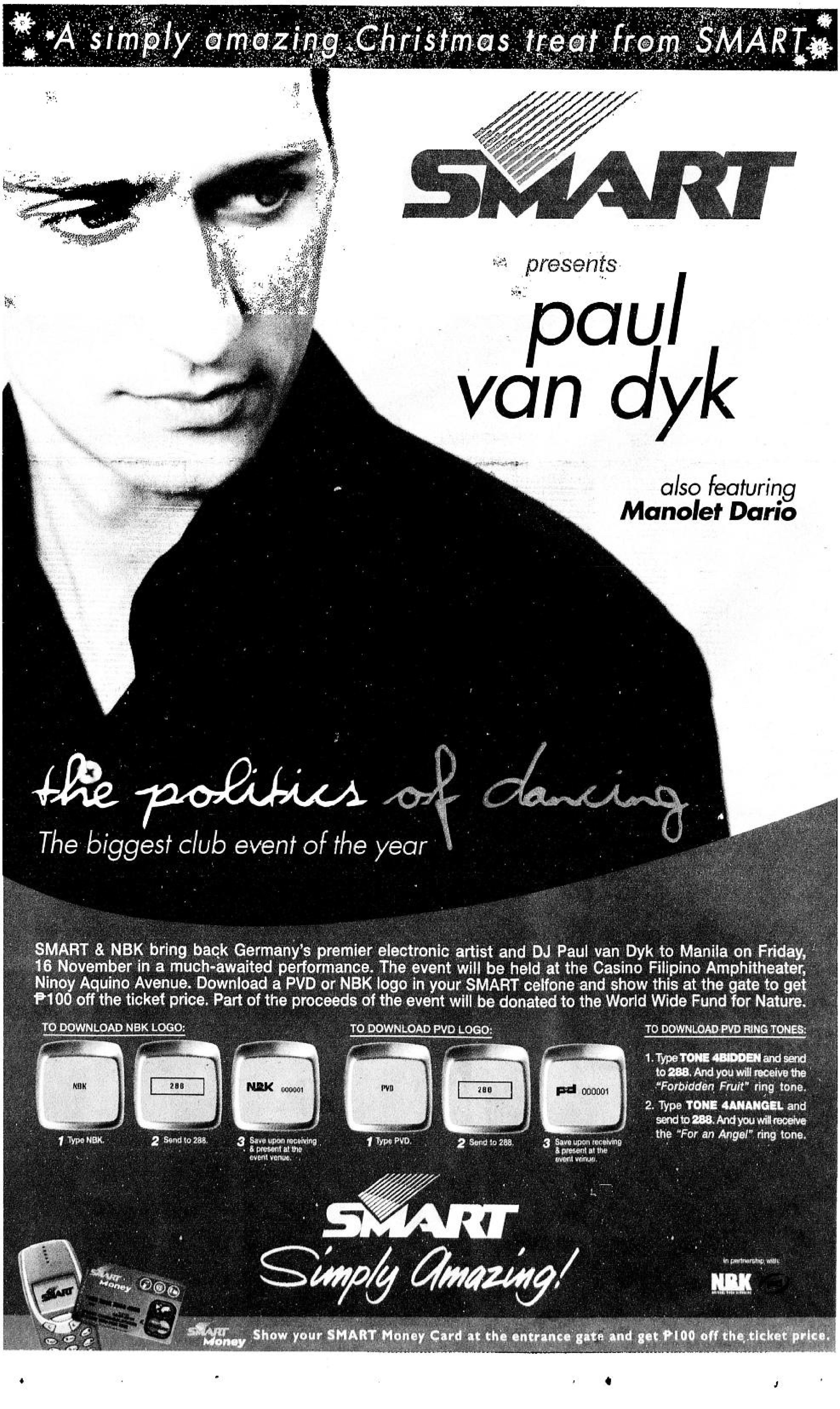
Smart subscribers who will present their Smart celfones displaying an NBK or PVD logo will only pay an entrance fee of Php 250, a Php 100 off from the regular ticket price of Php 350. To download a PVD or NBK logo through Smart zed, type in **NBK** or **PVD** on your celfone and send the message to **288.**

Cooler still, choose a popular Paul van Dyk tune as a personal ring tone. Just type **tone 4bidden** for "Forbidden Fruit" or **tone 4anangel** for "For An Angel" and send to **288.**

DJ Paul has been hailed by international magazines as "Best International DJ" and his best selling albums containing classics such as "*Forbidden Fruit*", "*Another Way*", "*For An Angel*", "*Tell Me Why*" among others have spawned huge sales enthralling millions of clubbers worldwide. His third album, "Out There and Back" has received critical acclaim from international magazines as one of the best albums of 2000.

One of the world's much sought-after DJs performing in cities such as London, New York, Tokyo, San Francisco, Singapore, Sydney, Hong Kong, Tel Aviv and Mexico, DJ Paul last performed in Manila in 1999 before over 1,500 screaming clubbers. His four-hour set that night is considered a hallmark in the Philippines' clubbing history. With this forthcoming visit, DJ Paul once again takes us on a magical musical journey, and just like what he accomplished that first time, Manila will never be the same again. November 16 is your once in a lifetime date with Paul at the dance event of the year. This tour coincides with the worldwide release of the Ministry of Sound's The Politics of Dancing, compiled and mixed by Paul.

Part of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the World Wild Fund for Nature. By supporting this and other NBK events, you are helping to prevent world's endangered animals from disappearing forever.


A simply amazing Christmas treat from SMART

SMART presents paul van dyk

also featuring **Manolet Dario**

the politics of dancing

The biggest club event of the year

SMART & NBK bring back Germany's premier electronic artist and DJ Paul van Dyk to Manila on Friday, 16 November in a much-awaited performance. The event will be held at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater, Ninoy Aquino Avenue. Download a PVD or NBK logo in your SMART celfone and show this at the gate to get ₱100 off the ticket price. Part of the proceeds of the event will be donated to the World Wide Fund for Nature.

TO DOWNLOAD NBK LOGO:

1 Type NBK.

2 Send to 288.

3 Save upon receiving & present at the event venue.

TO DOWNLOAD PVD LOGO:

1 Type PVD.

2 Send to 288.

3 Save upon receiving & present at the event venue.

TO DOWNLOAD PVD RING TONES:

1. Type **TONE 4BIDDEN** and send to **288**. And you will receive the *"Forbidden Fruit"* ring tone.
2. Type **TONE 4ANANGEL** and send to **288**. And you will receive the *"For an Angel"* ring tone.

SMART Simply Amazing!

in partnership with: NBK

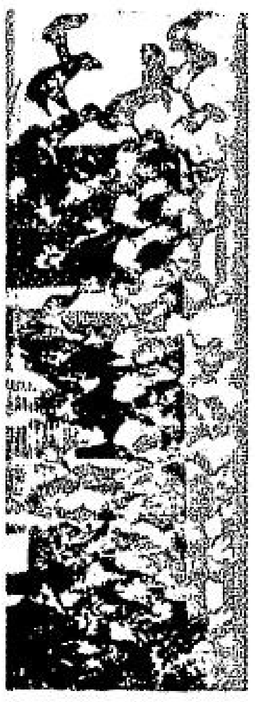
SMART Money Show your SMART Money Card at the entrance gate and get ₱100 off the ticket price.

A SWAG of garland garnished with poinsettias, glittered pine cones, pomegranate pick in silver and gold.

TRADITIONAL Christmas tree adorned with twigs, ribbons, pine cones and poinsettias in fuchsia, gold and silver.

Holidaying with flowers

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio



STYLIZED hanging of metallic foil in fuchsia and lilac

THIS YULETIDE season, expect to see a lot of fuchsia and teal in holiday decor. Since they look more ornate yet classy, these nontraditional colors are being favored by more people these days.

Like in fashion, the color collection for Christmas follows a trend and there's no better source than one of the top floral stores in the country, the Designer Blooms. "We follow the European trend in colors," says Luisa Garcia, second vice president of Designer Blooms (tels 838-7090/7711). "In Europe, you can see a lot of fuchsia and varied shades of red coming out in clothes and accessories."

But even as the company follows the international color soheme, Designer Blooms innovates and sets its own trend in holiday decorating. A visit to any of its 19 shops scattered all over Metro Manila reveals some unique arrangements of fabulous ornaments in exciting shapes, sizes and hues.

NONTRADITIONAL colors of Christmas—purple, lilac and pink—bedeck these Alpine Christmas trees in three different sizes.

This year, Designer Blooms has done away with the traditional crystal balls and velvet ribbons. Instead, it has come up with metallic ribbons and glittered or sugared fruits (i.e. pears, flowers, orange, grapes and berries) as trimmings or accent pieces for floral arrangements. Stars and miniature *belen* that are usually put atop the Christmas tree have been replaced with stylized twigs and grass bush painted in gold or sprinkled in silver dust. Hanging angels and even jolly old St. Nick have been set aside for fancy birdcages festooned with glittered berry picks, poinsettias in lilac and metallic tassels.

"Every Christmas, we've noticed people look for something different," observes Greg Garcia, second vice president of Designer Blooms. "So we try to introduce fresh ideas without veering too far away from the traditional motif."

Gold and silver remain the regular staple of the Yule season. Natural materials like *sinamay* and *capis*, however, have taken a backseat in the meantime. In terms of flowers, roses and poinsettias remain the all-time favorite. Whether in white, red, pink, purple or lavender, they give a gentle, romantic character to the arrangement. The holiday greens, such as pine, cypress and eucalyptus, are basic to any arrangement.

PERFECT for a corner is this birdcage dressed with berries, dried flowers and foliage in pink, purple and red.

Contemporary

Founded by Rica and Ting Garcia eight years ago, Designer Blooms has been in the fresh and dried floral business long enough to be a trendsetter in the ornaments market, especially at Christmas.

Last year, it popularized the Cadbury collection that featured the color purple as holiday motif. From flowers to ribbons to balls—everything was purple.

This time it's the Harlequin collection that is very much in. "The elements in the Harlequin collection are fuchsia, teal, gold and a touch of silver," says Luisa, who like Greg, finished business management. The festive collection is embellished with poinsettias, sugared pears, glittered holly picks and boxwood picks.

Another sumptuous arrangement is the Harvest collection that mixes fruits in red and gold with flowers and pines.

Designer Blooms has also created eye-catching arrangements out of twigs, grass bush and cone bush in different bright color mix. Swags of garland adorned with purple and pink faux flowers are also popular. Classic candelabras peppered with tinsels and berry picks give elegance and charm to the entire look. The traditional have no reason to worry: different sizes of Christmas wreaths with floral accents in lavender, pink and lilac are available.

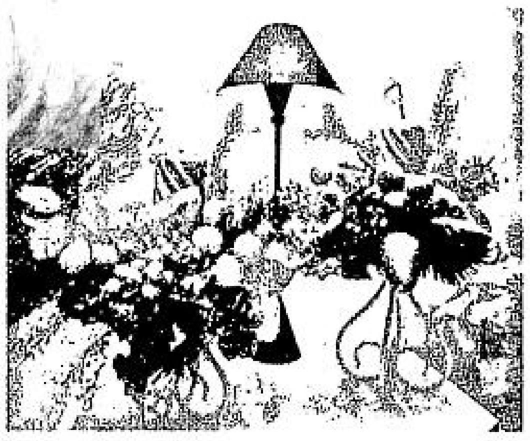
Designer Blooms also features Christmas trees of all sizes and shapes. The popular shape these days, according to Luisa, is the cone, which is ideal for homes with limited space, such as condominiums.

Barely three months ago, Designer Blooms opened its wholesale operation at their central office in Parañaque where customers can simply choose and buy trimmings by bulk. All the flowers come from China and United States, while the vases, containers and wrought-iron materials are locally sourced.

For its Christmas promo, Designer Blooms will arrange free of charge customer-picked flowers. The arrangement may be done at the customer's home or at the shop.

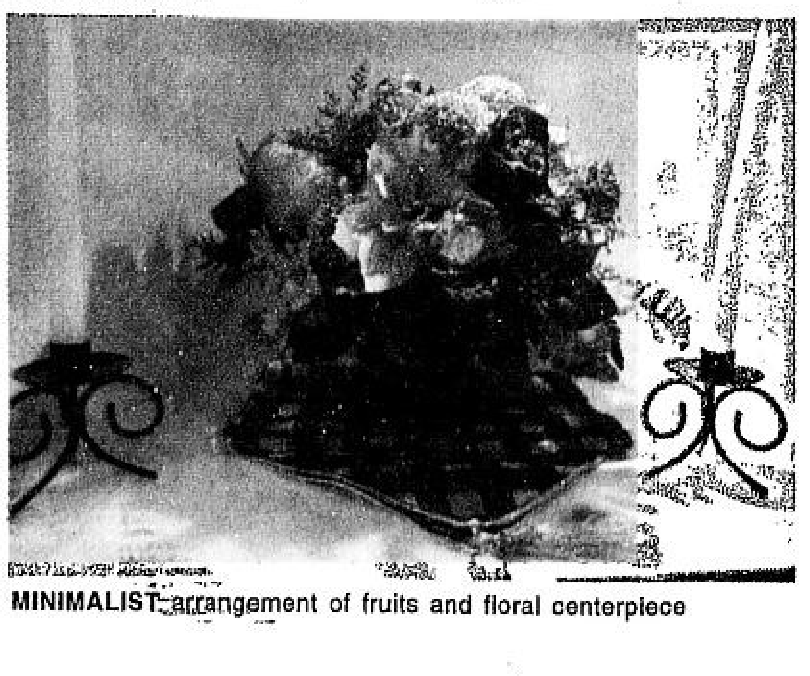
E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

If you want to be trendy in your Christmas décor, Designer Blooms is the shop to consult

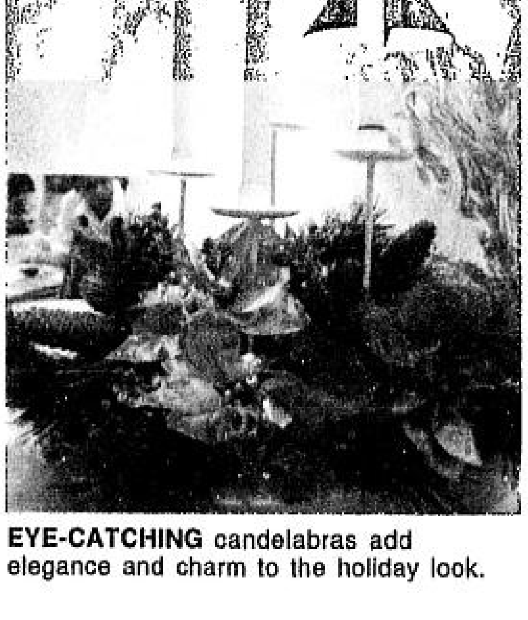


EXQUISITE candleholders are all dressed for the festive table.

MIXING fruits and flowers makes the arrangement look cool and festive.



MINIMALIST arrangement of fruits and floral centerpiece



EYE-CATCHING candelabras add elegance and charm to the holiday look.

A FAMILY AFFAIR. Ting Garcia with children Luisa and Greg at Designer Blooms shop

Happy memories of Nida Blanca

(From page D1)

by people from all walks of life. In private, Dorothy Jones (her real name) relished puttering around the house, tending her garden, fixing her scrapbooks and cooking. Though she enjoyed parties in the company of close friends, she loved spending quiet evenings at home with family and trusted aides. She would often watch the Hallmark Channel and fall asleep with her white, native blue-eyed cat Ming-Ming snuggled on her lap.

Nida was part of the LVN circle of stars known as the Golden Girls—Charito Solis, Marita Zobel, Luz Valdez, Caridad Sanchez and Bong Erana (former child star Nenita Vidal). Of the group, only three remain—Marita, Luz and Caridad.

Amid the sadness, tears and mystery that continue to surround Nida Blanca's death, her LVN friends, who faithfully trooped to her wake at the White Plains chapel every night, paused momentarily to look back and share some happy memories of their beloved colleague.

In spite of the violence surrounding her death, they choose to remember the goodness, generosity and love that she brought into their lives. They all agree that Nida would not want to have it any other way.

NESTOR DE VILLA

Only last Oct. 29 we were together at the LVN compound to commemorate Doña Sisang's birthday. I arrived late for the party and when I got there everyone was already seated at round tables and eating. I stood at the door with hesitation and didn't quite know where to go. I think she saw me from across the room and she stood up right away and came to meet me. *Inasikaso niya talaga ako ng mabuti.* She sat me with a group, and even served me! Gave me food, sat with me and we talked for a long time. I thought the attention was extraordinary, but I was really touched. She told me she was very happy I attended the event. It had been several months since we last saw each other, but we would talk to each other on the phone every now and then.

Our families are very close. *'Pag sila na ni* Marilou (Nestor's wife) *ang nag-usap sa telepono—naku, ang tagal!* A few days later we saw each other again at Bong's wake. *Ganun na naman*, she really made me feel so at home. *Iba ang* aura *niya*, always with a smile on her face. But that's how Nida really is, always so giving. I am so grateful we were able to preserve that friendship. When I think about it, our friendship practically spanned half a century. How many friends can be so blessed?

DELIA RAZON

Dory has always been so thoughtful sometimes to the point of overdoing it. She was already an actress and she would still try to "serve" me on the set of "Amante" where we starred together. *Sabi ko, tama na*, don't do that anymore, I just gave you the initial push but you've done it on your own.

I will always remember the first time I saw her at Estrella theater in Malabon where she did the front act for me and Armando Goyena. She did a lively song and afterward she approached me, "Delia, *matagal mo na akong taga-hanga, tulungan mo naman akong mag-artista*," she told me. I saw the potential and gave her my address and true enough, a few days later she arrived on my doorstep. *Naku*, I remember, *sabi ko*, "Take off your ribbon," and I made her change from the flat shoes which she was wearing to a pair of my platforms. Years later she would always laugh when I would remind her that *para siyang may* helicopter *noon sa ulo* when she came to my house. We would always have a great laugh over that. That very day I brought her to Doña Sisang, who was impressed because she was very *biba* and *galawgaw*. Right there and then Doña Sisang decided to give her a chance, "*Sige, pero mula ngayon*, Nida *na ang pangalan mo*," she said. The rest is history and we have remained very close friends since then.

LUZ VALDEZ

I was only starting in the movies then. They were going to launch me in "Tatlong Commando" with Pancho Magalona, Robert Campos and Leroy Salvador, and we were supposed to have a press conference that evening. I was in the makeup room when Dory came in. "*Uy*, Luz, congratulations!" Then I told her I was worried because I did not have a thing to wear. *Syempre nag-uumpisa pa lang ako, tapos* breadwinner *pa ako noon.* Imagine, Dory sent over a beautiful black dress—lace and tight-fitting. It was designed by Carlos Burgos, who was a well-known designer during those days. *Sikat na sikat na si* Dory *noon* and *hiyang-hiya talaga ako* with her gesture. But that's the kind of friend she was—always generous and very thoughtful. *Hindi ko talaga makakalimutan 'yung ginawa niyang iyon.*

CARIDAD SANCHEZ

"Nida was always my unofficial driver during parties and functions. *'Pag alam kong kasama ko si* Nida, *kampante na ako na hindi ako ang magda*-drive. *Lagi kaming magkasama sa mga lakaran. Tatawag na iyan sa bahay at magyayaya,* "*Caring, halika na, punta na tayo,*" *kung sino man ang pupuntahan namin noon.* Since we were neighbors in White Plains *madali niya akong daanan.* And she would always be on time. Even at social events, you could not be late *'pag si* Dory *ang kasama mo.*

Pero ang laki na talaga ng pinagbago niya. She has definitely mellowed since her early days. One time, we had to attend a function at the Araneta Coliseum and the guards were very strict they would not let us in. Dory was very patient behind the wheel and was about to put the car in reverse when I said, "*Sandali, sandali,*" I rolled down the windows and told the guard, "'*Di mo ba nakikilala itong* driver *ko. Si* Nida Blanca *ito.*" Afterward, '*di pinadaan na kami ng* guards. When we were in the parking lot, Dory asked me, "*Bakit mo naman ginanon?*" and I told her, "*Eh hindi ka kasi nag*-react! *Ano ka ba? Saan ng tapang mo?*" She just looked at me and laughed. *Tawanan talaga kami* that evening.

HAPPIER DAYS. Nida with (left) Lourdes Medel and LVN's boss Manny de Leon

MARITA ZOBEL

"When I think of Dory, two words come to my head—fun and wisdom. Dory knew how to enjoy life. She would tell us all these animated stories during our parties with the LVN gang. Even if we only saw each other three times a year, each time we'd meet *parang* there was no gap in between. She had this wonderful gift of making you feel right at home. I really admire her for being such a well-rounded individual. *Ang dami n'yang kakilala* from all walks of life and she always seemed to be able to say the right thing at the right time. Whenever I had a problem, Dory would be the first person I would think of, *iisipin ko lagi*, "*Ano kaya ang sasabihin ni* Dory?" She was always able to give great advice. Dory was one woman who had such a zest for life and knew how to have fun, and yet when it came to the serious side of life, she also always knew what to say.

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Week Waker uppers

Show-biz stars snub GMA at Nida Blanca wake

THEY are actors and actresses who have won awards for their performances. Without fail, they have appeared unflappable, friendly and inviting to fans and foes alike. But even the brutal death of **Nida Blanca**, a pillar of show business and one of the country's finest actresses, failed to summon a modicum of good grace—or hypocrisy (which is, after all, the business of actors)—from show-biz denizens when President **Macapagal-Arroyo** paid her respects to the fallen actress at the White Plains chapel.

When word got around that the President was coming, celebrities quickly filed out of the chapel.

It was **Armida Siguion-Reyna**, she who was always branded as *mataray*, who had the good grace to exchange pleasantries with the President. After the President left, the celebrities started to file back into the chapel.

It was a different thing altogether when Sen. **Loi Ejercito** came. The entertainers flocked around her. She became the darling of the wake. Clearly, this was her turf, and the movie world still very much her ousted husband's kingdom.

NIDA Blanca

Boorish media, mercenary fans

THE WAKE has also occasioned the usual show of media boorishness and irreverence. Cameramen and photographers have had a field day training their lens at the grieving family and friends without respect for the latter's privacy.

Television journalists have been particularly supercilious. They conducted their interviews at the chapel, asking impertinent questions and making the place their own studio and circus.

Kibitzers and show-biz fanatics have been mercenary and treated the wake as an occasion for "star-gazing." They abused the hospitality of the actress's family and even have the temerity to complain about the amenities. One was heard remarking, "*Kakaunti ang pagkain. Mabuti pa doon sa lamay kay* **Eddie Rodriguez**."

Three swines and a lady

A SEXUAL harassment complaint has been filed against a retired general who now heads a government office. The incident happened two moons ago in a popular fondue restaurant in Makati after a press conference given by the general's office to promote his latest money-making project (which is also receiving a lot of flak, by the way). Apparently, he had one too many to drink.

The victim was a marketing executive who used to run the operations of one of the first Internet companies here. She attended the event at the behest of her former business partner, who is the scion of a prominent Chinese family in the sugar refinery business. The general took an immediate liking to the victim and started to flirt with her, but when his affections were met with condescension, the general stepped up his advances by loudly uttering sexual innuendoes in full view of all the diners. He later tried to kiss the victim on the lips and then proceeded to stick his tongue in her ear as she sat next to him.

Instead of protecting the victim, the Chinese scion and his present business partner, a broker with a Filipino- Japanese brokerage firm, stoked the general's fire by saying that the victim would be a regular visitor to the general's office for all future press events. It seems that the general, too, was a victim of opportunists who were in such desperate need of a fat government contract from the general's office that they were willing to give anything (or anyone) to get it.

The victim said she was traumatized and suffered depression as a result. She said she has also received thinly veiled threats, but has pressed on with the charges despite the formidability of the general and his connections. The general is the leader of a coup-prone military fraternity. At one point during the incident, he was with a colonel who belonged to another coup-prone military fraternity.

The victim has written the general's superior, a Cabinet member whose department supervises the general's office, in order to explain why she has filed the charges. "The heaviest burden to bear is not so much the violation that occurred against me," she tells the Cabinet member, "but the burden of the knowledge and of imposed silence due to thinly veiled threats against my life. This harassment occurred during the course of a [government] function, a press conference, and I, the victim, did not happen upon this situation by chance, but by circumstance. Therefore, I must share this burden with the administrative superiors of the general, because this should just not be my problem, but also the concern of the individuals who put the general in such a position of power. It is a social concern."

Will the victim get justice in a government in the thrall of military bosses? *Abangan.*

Carmelites come out

THEY may be contemplatives, but the Carmelite nuns of the Philippines believe that they are also active in the world through prayers and action. On Nov. 24, they will mark their 75th year in the Philippines with no less than Manila Archbishop Cardinal **Jaime Sin** and a member of Pope **John Paul II**'s Cabinet, Cardinal **Francis Cardinal Arinze**, prefect as the Sacred Congregation for Inter-religious Dialogue, as concelebrants.

In the run-up to the Diamond Jubilee Mass, there will a series of Masses starting Nov. 16 at the Carmel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus (4 Gilmore Ave., QC) at 6 p.m. with some of the country's leading religious and hierarchs as celebrants and homilists. The Masses, their themes and the celebrants are the following: Nov. 16, for the Filipino youth and teachers, Fr. **Gilbert Luis Centina III**, O.S.A.; Nov. 17, for nongovernment organizations and Chinese-Filipino communities, Fr. **Esteban Lo**; Nov. 18, for labor unions and overseas Filipino workers, Bishop **Bong Baylon** and Fr. **Danny Huang**, S.J.; Nov. 19, for the government and the military, Fr. **Bernard** of Jesus and Mary, O.C.D.; Nov. 20, for Carmelite benefactors and the media, Archbishop **Orlando Quevedo**, O.M.I.; Nov. 21, for the Filipino family, Bishop **Rolando Tirona**; Nov. 22, for the Carmelite family, Fr. **Angelo Madelo**, O.C.D.; and Nov. 23, for the religious, clergy and seminarians, Archbishop **Gaudencio Rosales**.

Prompt bank action

WALTER Ang, a writer of 2bU!, the INQUIRER Lifestyle's youth section, was pleasantly surprised when **Flor Kwan**, general manager of the Roosevelt branch of Metrobank, took the time to get in touch with him after his article, "Awful banks," came out on Nov. 7, where he complained about the bank's inaction after he lost his ATM card.

"She apologized and even asked for suggestions on how to improve their services," Ang said. "I appreciate her efforts to rectify the situation even if it was quite late. But it's better late than never."

Questionable sister act

WHAT is this we hear about the pathetic social climbing of the half-sister of a socialite and former publisher-editor of top glossy magazines? The former editor and catty chronicler, who now lives between Repulse Bay in Hong Kong and South Kensington in London, is quickly establishing herself as an international journalist. Unfortunately, her insecure half-sister has been busy passing herself off as the famous sister by using her stylish sister's name and giving out copies of magazines her sister used to publish, passing them off as her work. Even more unfortunate is that now her sister's international editors are fully aware of the scam. One international editor has already run into the impostor at the publication the "original" sister writes for.

Odd Adboard

NOW you see it, now you don't. The print ad of a liposuction center featuring a sexy actress in a revealing dress keeps changing looks. When it ran in some dailies, the ad showed the actress in dishabille. But the next time it ran, a black band was covering the actress's body.

What happened? It seems the Adboard, acting on complaints, censored the ad.

But naughtily the ad agency added the copy "censored by repressed moralists" on the ad. The Adboard did not find that funny at all and ordered the ad banned again.

What an odd board, this Adboard. While being prudish with certain print ads, it is doing nothing about tasteless TV ads, such as that one by a toilet paper company which, literally, employs toilet humor.

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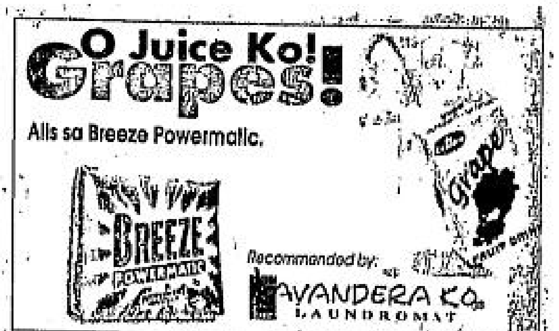
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Scape


O Juice Ko! Grapes!
Alis sa Breeze Powermatic.
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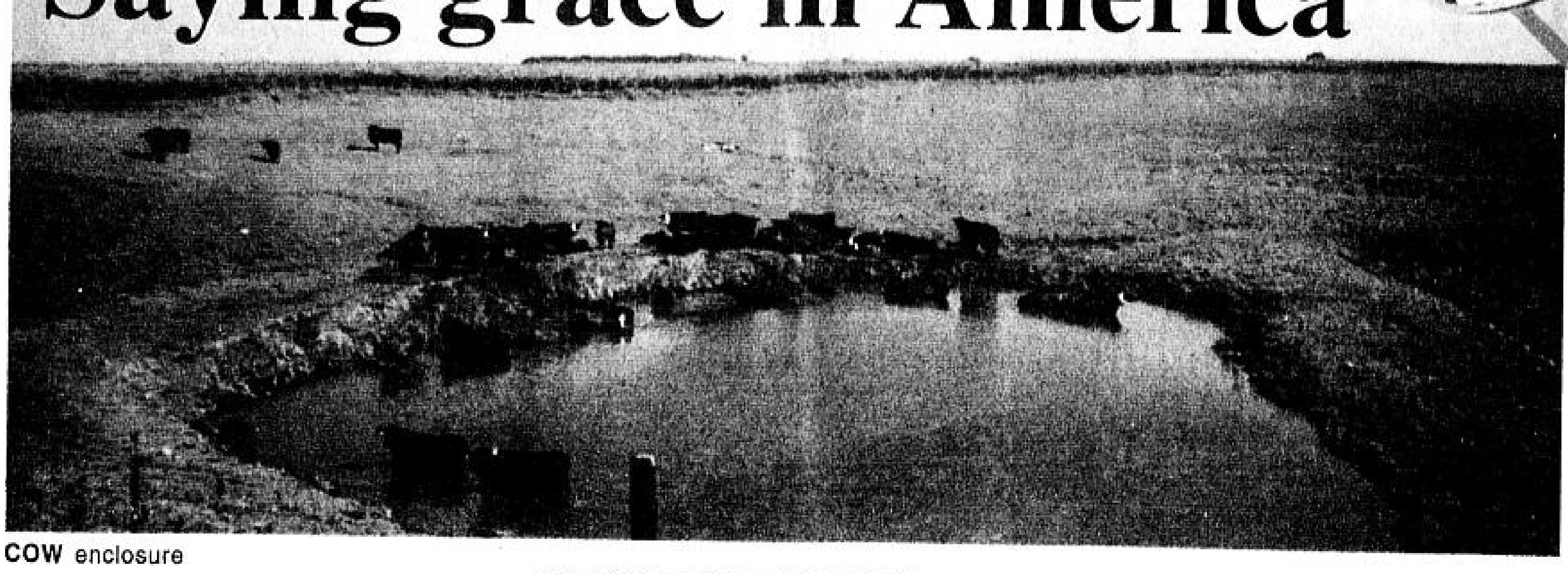
Saying grace in America


COW enclosure

THE HAND THAT FEEDS. Sandy Ludeman with his dog Shadow checks one of the calves.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

WHEN was the last time I said grace before a meal? To pause and thank God for all the wonderful blessings He has bestowed on the table? In my daily rush to chase after stories and meet deadlines, I could hardly recall anymore.

It took, of all places, a farm in Tracy, Minnesota, a town three hours southwest of the Twin Cities, to remind of this. The 2,700-acre property planted to corn and soybeans is partly owned and managed by couple Sandy and Peggy Ludeman.

The trip, which took place several weeks before Sept. 11, was part of this year's program arranged by the World Press Institute. The NGO based in St. Paul invites 10 journalists from various countries every year to expose them to an America beyond what they normally see in Hollywood films. The four-month fellowship ended several weeks ago, leaving each journalist with fresher insights about the United States, more so in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

New facet

Who says old-fashioned family values are going the way of the dinosaur in secular America? My four-day stay with the Ludemans disabused me of this thought as it exposed me to a whole new facet of American life that, as far as I was concerned, hardly exists in the Twin Cities.

I was all set to fork a piece of that juicy roast beef at dinner, for instance, when Sandy gently told me of their practice to say grace before every meal—a cherished practice that, I learned later, had been handed down from one generation to the next. Now that their kids, Sandy VI and Dayna, were based elsewhere with families of their own, it would be interesting to see if they've managed to hold on to such a tradition.

Like in most families, Sunday is a red-letter day in the Ludeman home. Instead of heading to such regular American haunts as the mall or the beach (well, lakes in the case of Minnesota), the couple's first order of the day is to attend service at one of two Lutheran churches in town.

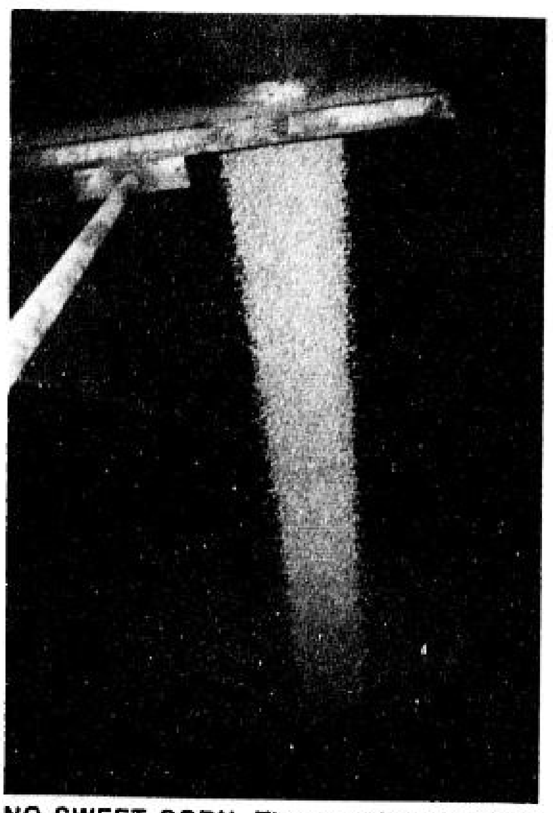
Still Catholic

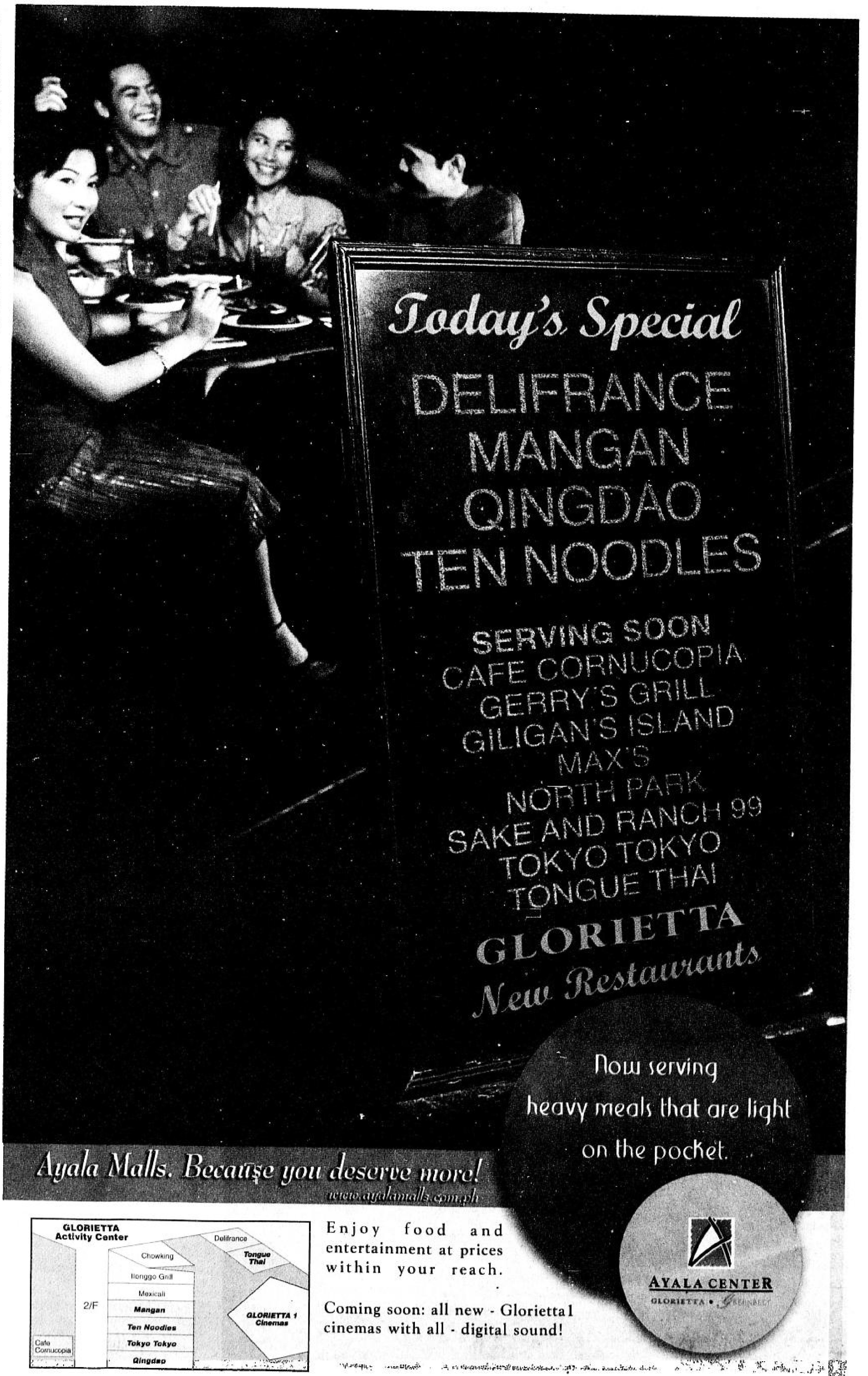
I have never considered myself a religious person, but as a Catholic, I still believe in the church's role in helping foster a sense of family and community, especially in such a small, remote town as Tracy. Admittedly, I joined the Ludemans to church that Sunday more out of curiosity than a pious desire to commune with God and His faithful.

Believe it or not, it was my first time to attend a Protestant service. Although it felt strange at first to be the only person of color in a community composed mostly of Anglo worshippers, I never felt so welcomed. Everyone had a ready smile and an extended hand as the Ludemans went about introducing me to family and friends before and after the service.

Another observation struck me that balmy Sunday morning: the aging composition of Tracy's churchgoers. A sea of gray and balding heads nearly filled the modest-sized church. Where have the town's young people gone? Most teenagers were said to have trooped to Colorado for a summer romp, but what about the young adults?

SAYING/p.E7


NO SWEET CORN. These grains would be ground as pig chow.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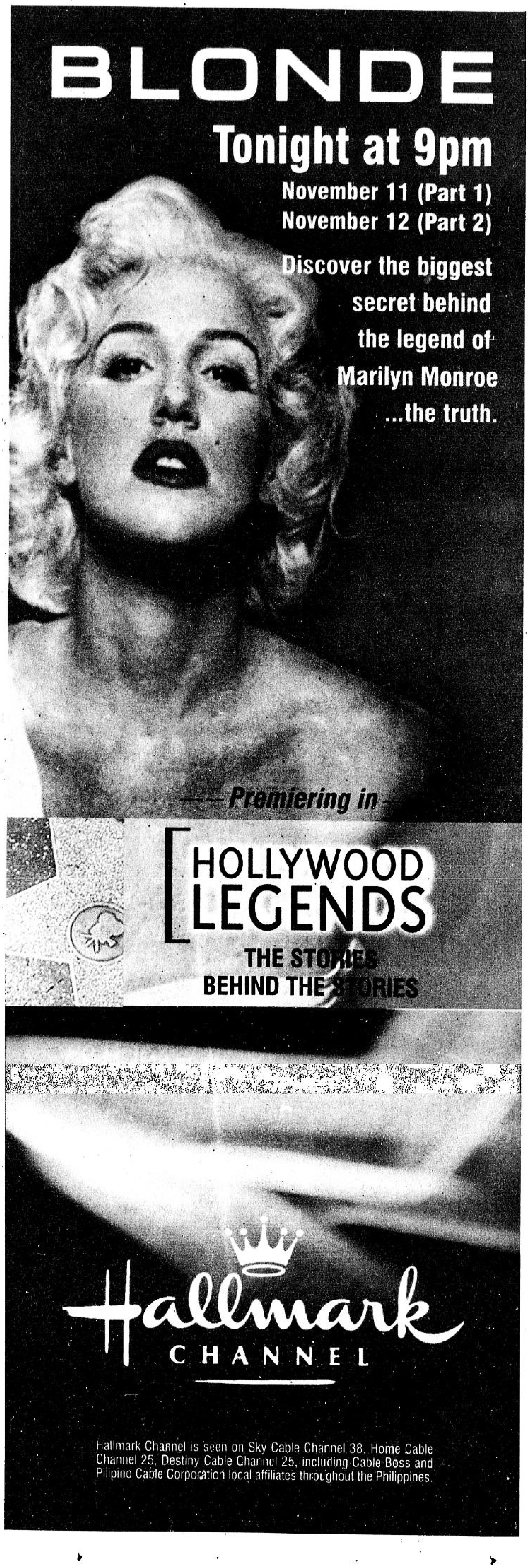

BLONDE

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Off to Hong Kong, thanks to a good meal

AFTER A MONTH-LONG celebration of Cabalen's 14th anniversary, the much-awaited raffle winners are finally drawn. Carmela Inocencio of 2318 Granate St., San Andres Bukid, Manila is the lucky grand prize winner. After treating her family once to celebrate her daughter's 7th birthday at Cabalen Glorietta 3, she and a companion can now fly to Hong Kong for free, stay in a hotel for two nights and three days, enjoy set breakfast daily, courtesy of Prestige Travel represented by GM Mitos Tan. Together with this trip to Hong Kong for two is pocket money of P25,000.

Second prize winner of 29" Sony Wega TV is Nona de Leon of 39 J. De Leon St., Taytay, Rizal. The five third prize winners of Nokia 3210 prepaid kits are Marissa G. Africa of 5 Maya-Maya Heights, Victoria Valley Subdivision, Antipolo Rizal; Melanie Ruth Karganilla-Fronge of Lot 10, Block 42 Phase 3, AF Puyat, West Bicutan, Taguig; Helen P. Floriano of 125-A P. Manahan St., FB Harrison, Pasay City; Alexander Romero of 49 Rodriguez St., Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City; and Rosario Cortez of 14 Road I corner Alley 23, Project 6, QC.

Cabalen is famous for eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want buffet service. Enjoy over 40 delectable dishes every day for only P220 for adults and P95 for kids below 4 ft plus VAT.

Cabalen is located at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM City Manila, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 3, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Katipunan Avenue and West Avenue. Cabalen also caters for all occasions. Call 372-3515 or 647-5088.

Eat all you can
Win all you want
GRAND PRIZE

CARMELA Inocencio (second from left), first prize winner of trip to Hong Kong for two, with sponsors Prestige ticketing reservation supervisor Marivic M. Lacerna (extreme left) and Prestige general manager Mitos Tan (third from left), and Cabalen operations manager Concon Reyes.

Martel joins Filvets board

CIVIC CIRCLE

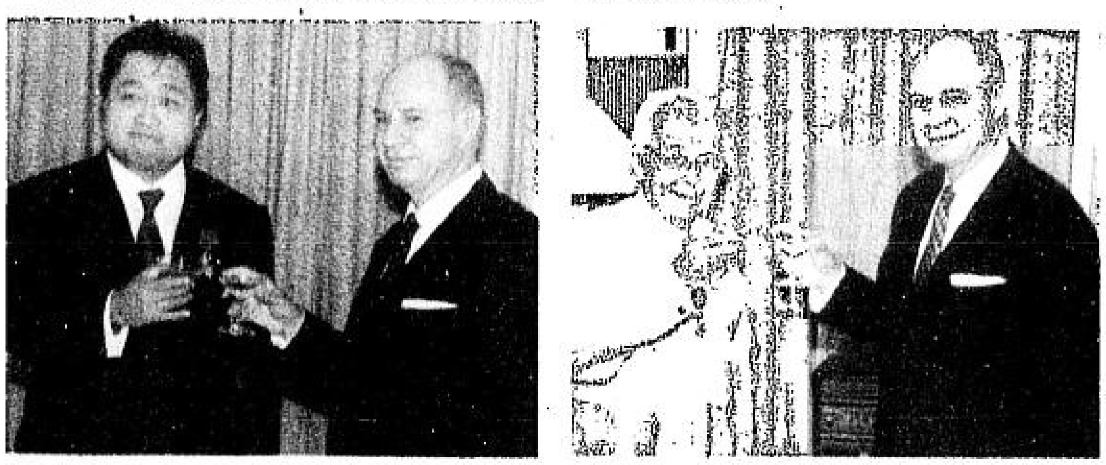
BELEN Lovina Ticzon Martel has accepted an invitation to become a member of the board of trustees of the Filipino War Veterans Foundation Inc. (Filvets). The invitation was embodied in a resolution unanimously approved by the incumbent board members. Martel accepted the invitation in order to serve the country's veterans and their families.

Filvets is a private nonprofit and humanitarian foundation organized in 1989 to provide immediate and adequate care and other socio-economic assistance to veterans and their families. Founding chair was former President Fidel V. Ramos. He was succeeded by Gen. Renato de Villa. The incumbent president is former Public Works Secretary Juanito N. Ferrer.

Meanwhile, Martel, executive vice president of Harrison Plaza, director of Marsteel Consolidated Inc. and chair of Belco Marketing Inc., has been cited as an outstanding mother, church and civic leader, astute businesswoman and pioneering entrepreneur. Her biography is included in the 16th edition of Who's Who in the World produced by the prestigious Marquis Publishers (Who's Who in America), along with former US Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Martina Hingis, Zhou Han, Deepak Chopra, Kofi Annan, Gong Li and Hubert de Givenchy.

Martel is the wife of Antonio V. Martel Jr., president of Harrison Plaza, and daughter of philanthropists Romeo R. Ticzon and Encarnacion Lovina, who is the granddaughter of statesman Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr., founding chair of the Philippine Veterans Bank. Martel is mother to Antonia, a 12th grader at the International School of Manila.

BELEN Lovina Ticzon Martel



AMBASSADOR Gilles Chouraqui confers the French government's order of honors to (left) SGV managing partner Cesar Purisima and (right) ethnomusicologist Jose Maceda.

French awards for Filipinos

JOSE Maceda, National Artist, world-renowned composer and ethnomusicologist, was conferred the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur by the French government. Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui conferred the insignia Oct. 16 at his Makati residence.

Maceda's long-standing relationship with France began in 1937 when he first went to Paris to study piano with Alfred Cortot. He continued a privileged relationship with the country as a concert pianist and composer. His musical compositions took center stage at the annual French Spring festivals in Manila. The French government has, twice in the past, recognized his endeavors in the arts and his efforts to promote the union between the two cultures by conferring on him the title of Spicier in the Ordre des Arts et Lettres and Chevalier des Palmes Academiques.

He is currently professor emeritus and executive director of the University of the Philippines Center for Ethnomusicology.

Another Filipino honored by the French government was Cesar Purisima, who was conferred the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre National du Merite.

Purisima, a businessman and civic leader, is the managing partner of SGV & Co., chair of the board and vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and, since 1998, president of the Philippine-France Business Council. Through his efforts and cooperation with the French embassy, Franco-Filipino business relations have flourished in the country.

BOOK DONATION

The American Women's Club of the Philippines has donated 170 books to the American Historical Collection in the Rizal Library at Ateneo de Manila University. A special ceremony was held recently to officially hand over the acquisition to the library. Some of the books are newly published while others are rare or out-of-print. All cover some aspects of Philippine-American history. Shown admiring the new titles are (from left) Dr. Michael Anderson of the United States embassy and the American Historical Collection Foundation (AHCF) board; Kathy Yulo and Vickie Bardusch of the American Women's Club and the American Association of the Philippines Historical Committee; Caryln Manning-Drumm, vice president, AHCF; Fr. Jose Cruz of the Ateneo and the AHCF board, and Stephen Banta, AHCF treasurer. The collection has already among the largest, most diverse and most complete selections of US era materials anywhere in the world. It is open to researchers and others seeking information about the period.

Globe explains to disgruntled subscribers about prepaid cards

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

WE didn't realize there is one huge population of cellular phone subscribers out there who are not happy about their prepaid cards. Since we aired their complaints in this column (PDI Lifestyle, 11/04/01), we've been receiving more letters from disgruntled subscribers. We hope the following explanation from Globe vice president for customer service, Emmanuel A. Aligada, will clarify matters.

Aligada wrote: "Text messages sent by our subscribers beyond their free message allocation are not immediately deducted from their balance, unlike phone calls. While a call is deducted a few minutes after it is made, text messages take a longer time to process and are therefore deducted at a later time. When the messages are finally deducted from a subscriber's account, these are done in batches and not on a per message basis. This is why our subscribers have this perception that there is a sudden decrease in their balance even though there is hardly any usage during a particular time.

"Additionally, the subscribers must realize that we implemented a new text messaging allocation and charging scheme last September. From the 150 messages per cycle for prepaid accounts, the new allocation gives our subscribers 100 free messages per cycle. This will be further reduced in January 2002 to 50 messages per cycle. With the new charging scheme, text messages sent to other local network operators are now charged P1 for every sent message, unlike before when these were included in their free message allocation. This change could have affected the customer's perception on the deduction made to their accounts."

Faster activation

Applications for Globe Handyphone line at business centers are now processed right away, Aligada said. The SIM card is issued soon after the applicant's documents are approved, and these can only take a matter of minutes, according to him. Activation of the phone line takes effect within 24 hours.

It takes a little longer, however, for applications submitted to dealers or subdealers. "The required documents have to be transmitted yet to the main office for approval and activation. It should not take longer than three days," Aligada assured applicants.

No return, no exchange

JIM W. of aquagym_2000@yahoo.com shares his interesting observation and experience by starting with the eye-opener that if you look close enough at the bottom of your prepaid cell card, there is a disclaimer that says "No return, no exchange." He is calling the attention of the Department of Trade and Industry for this violation of the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

He also commented that when you pay in advance for a service or product, you usually get a bonus such as a discount. It is the other way around with a prepaid cell card. "And we wholeheartedly agree that you may even be short-changed when you get a lemon prepaid card." He added, "are cell phone companies paying the required VAT charges?"

Having said his observations, he related his unpleasant experience with prepaid cell phone cards: "Several times, I bought cards with diminished load or these were used cards. I have fought several times with my wife over text messages that don't arrive on time. My biggest surprise was, after buying P500 worth of prepaid card at the store on domestic terminal waiting lounge, the store clerk refused to give me a receipt. The guy refused to give me my money back. If my plane at that time wasn't already loading, I could have strangled the fellow.

"How many times have I called Globe customer service only to be told that the computer was slow in processing and that I have to check back in one hour? They take down my name and cellular number, but they never call back."

Wayward parcel

IN THE PREVIOUS column, we aired the gripe of Ely de los Santos about the parcel he sent from the Philippines to his son in Yokohama. Santos sent us this detailed account of wayward parcel, Acct. no. 285-1055-793 sent from DHL Parañaque branch by Eladio de los Santos to Pierre Andre P. de los Santos at JGC Corp. in Yokohama, Japan.

When the parcel did not arrive at the expected date, or five days after shipment, father and son kept calling up the DHL offices to inquire about the status of the parcel.

They received all sorts of explanation, and they were even questioned at one point why the parcel was addressed to the World Operations Center when it was, as they said, "only for conventions."

To make a long story short, DHL advised Pierre Andre, who was based in Yokohama, to claim "items that could be released out of the parcel" in Tokyo. To do that, he had to request for a leave of absence from his job and spend hard-earned money for the travel cost.

"My son was nagged by the Tokyo office to pick up the parcel so the poor kid had to pay the equivalent of P3,000 just to have it forwarded to his Yokohama office."

De los Santos senior commented, "The items were boxed and wrapped in the presence of DHL representatives and duly cleared for shipment, so why should there be items in the parcel that could not be released? Why do they require recipient to get the parcel in Tokyo when the freight that we paid for was for delivery up to Yokohama? All of these took one month. To think that we choose DHL to handle our parcel because, as it advertises, it is a company where every second counts."

Letter from Johnson's GM

IN OUR previous column, we extolled on the benefits of a new insect repellant in town that uses a new active ingredient. We cited published facts about the other active ingredient in popular (we used the word "mainstay") called the DEET found in other insect repellants.

The general manager of Johnson, Sutti Manokit Jarunman, wrote us a three-page letter to point out that our column was misleading the public with misinformation on DEET-based products. He demanded, "I would ask that you publish [my] the letter in its entirety in your column to be assured that they [readers] are given the full and complete set of facts about our products."

We have some problem there as the three-page letter was written in the most prominent font and biggest bold points we have ever received in our e-mail box, already clogged as it is with those cellular phone gripes. It took all of 25 minutes to download Mr. Jarunman's letter, after which the e-mail box had to be shut down due to overload.

We shall print the salient points of the letter next week and include published data on the disputed DEET active ingredient.

E-mail author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com or mgiron@csi.com.ph

"Unang naka-attract sa amin yung materials!"
– R. Ponciano

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Collect all and have your own Christmas Mini-Town!

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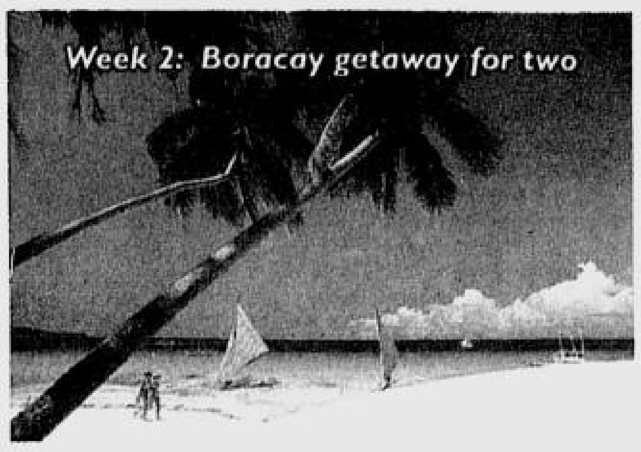
TUNE IN...TE

Week 1: Davao adventure for two


Week 2: Boracay getaway for two

Gl

Text Away

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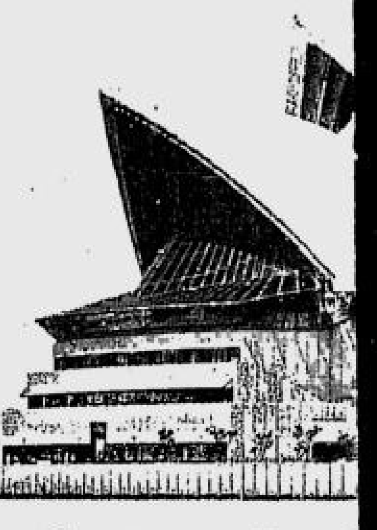
Watch celebr
Thursday

Ford Expedition for family outings!*


Trip f

Get together for the biggest texting event this season! Over P4

celebr8

A Globe Get-Together

Open to all Globe Handyphone Plan and Prepaid subscribers

Here's how to join:

1. Watch the four (4) episodes of Celebr8: A Globe Get Together that will be aired on Studio 23, air dates shall be as follows:
    - a. November 15, Thursday, 8pm
    - b. November 22, Thursday, 9pm
    - c. November 29, Thursday, 9pm
    - d. December 06, Thursday, 9pm
2. During each show, four (4) questions shall be flashed at random, followed by a multiple choice of possible answers. List down the letter that corresponds to the proper answer, until you come up with answers to all four (4) questions.
3. At the end of every show, you will be asked to text in your answers to 2378, following the format illustrated below. Each text message shall be charged an entry fee of PhP 10.00

How to text in your answers:

For example: 1C_2A_3B_4D_First Name_Last Name_Address
1C, 2A, 3B, 4D represent answers to 4 questions.
1C means, your answer to the 1st question is the letter "C".
2A means, your answer to the 2nd question is letter "A".
3B means, your answer to the 3rd question is letter "B".
4D means, your answer to the 4th question is letter "D".
Make sure your separate your answers with a space.

How many times can you send an entry?

You may text in your answers up to 20 times per show/week. On your 21st correct text answer, you shall receive the text message: "You have exceeded the maximum number of entries. Please try again by watching the show next week. Thank you." So, you may text in/send a total of 80 entries during the four-week period of the contest.

How do I know if I sent in the correct answer?

If your answer is correct, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Congratulations! You have the correct answers to our questions! You now qualify in the weekly and grand draws!"

If answer is incorrect, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Your answer is incorrect. Please re-type the sequence with the correct answers and send to 2378 again."

So, only text entries with correct answers and its sequence shall be considered as qualified for the contest.

Who will qualify for the weekly and grand draw?

All Globe Handyphone subscribers who texted in the correct answer within the allowed time (see schedule below) are qualified and are considered valid. If you qualify, your Globe Handyphone number will be stored in the database of correct and valid entries.

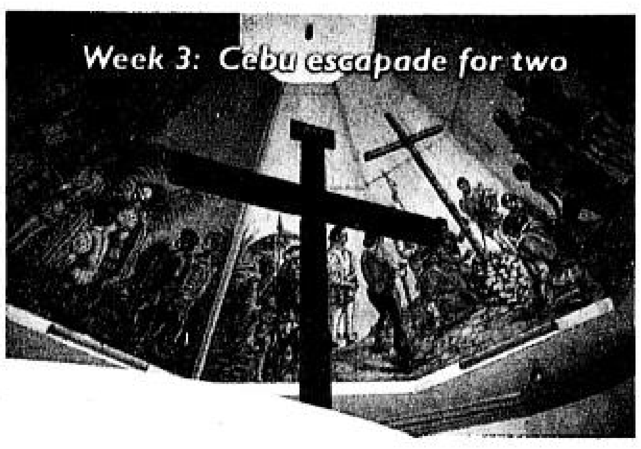
How will be the winners be drawn?

The winners will be drawn via an Electronic Raffle.

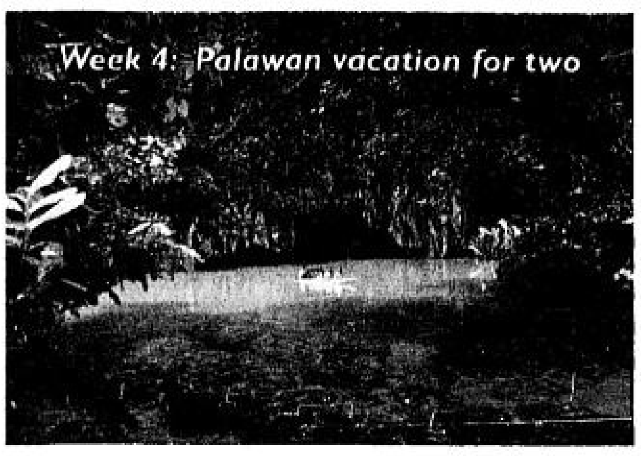
How will the Electronic Raffle be conducted?

1. The Electronic Raffle will draw one (1) Globe Handyphon randomly from the database of correct and valid entries representative will check the computer selection proces determination of the winner.
2. Once the winning Globe Handyphone number has been dr
    - a) Globe Telecom representatives will make a c subscriber whose number has been chosen in ord the subscriber that he has won.
    - b) The subscriber will be required to give his name, ad occupation, Handyphone number, mother's maiden name, he/she is affiliated or related to an employee of Glob Harrison Communications, Studio 23, ABS-CBN during the
    - c) The winning subscriber shall also be notified by registe
    - d) A second verification with the HR department of Glob Harrison Communications, Studio 23, ABS-CBN conducted by a Globe representative.
3. A Globe representative will be given 24 hours to contact th the entry via the winning mobile number. If after 24 hour with the winning mobile number and the person is established, a new number is drawn.

EXT IN...WIN!



Week 3: Cebu escapade for two



Week 4: Palawan vacation for two

be

HANDYPHONE

to Getaway!

Win in the grand draw!

8 on Studio 23
s at 8:00PM*

r 4 to Australia!

Ford Explorer SportTrac for road trips with friends!*

Million in prizes that lets you get together with family and friends!

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4. There will be one winner for each of the four shows / weekly draw.
5. All correct entries shall automatically be included in the Grand Raffle Draw. There will be one winner for each of the Grand Raffle prizes.
6. Electronic Draw Dates are as follows:

WEEKLY RAFFLE DRAW:

Show Date:	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29	Dec 06
Text Validity Date*	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 07
Draw Date:	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 03	Dec 10

*You may text in your answers until 12:00 midnight of that day.

GRAND DRAW : December 12, 10:00 AM

Show Date:	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29	Dec 06
Text Validity Date*	Nov 21	Nov 28	Dec 05	Dec 11
Grand Draw Date:	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 03	Dec 10

Show Dates : All valid entries from all 4 shows,
Deadline for submission of entries : December 11, 12:00 midnight
Raffle Date : December 12
Announcement Date : December 13

What are the prizes?

Four (4) Weekly winners will be drawn.
Weekly prizes: 3 days, 2 nights vacation for 2 persons; inclusive of airfare & accommodation ·

- Davao package · Boracay package ·
- Cebu package · Palawan package

Three (3) Grand prize winners will be drawn. Grand Draw prizes:

- 1 winner of one (1) Ford Expedition
- 1 winner of one (1) Ford Explorer
- 1 winner of a trip to Australia (4 days, 3 nights vacation for 4 people; inclusive of airfare & accommodation) The Electronic Raffle will be held on the above dates, at 10:00 AM. at the Globe Telecom Plaza. The Electronic Raffle will be held in the presence of officials of Globe Telecom and a representative from the Department of Trade and Industry.

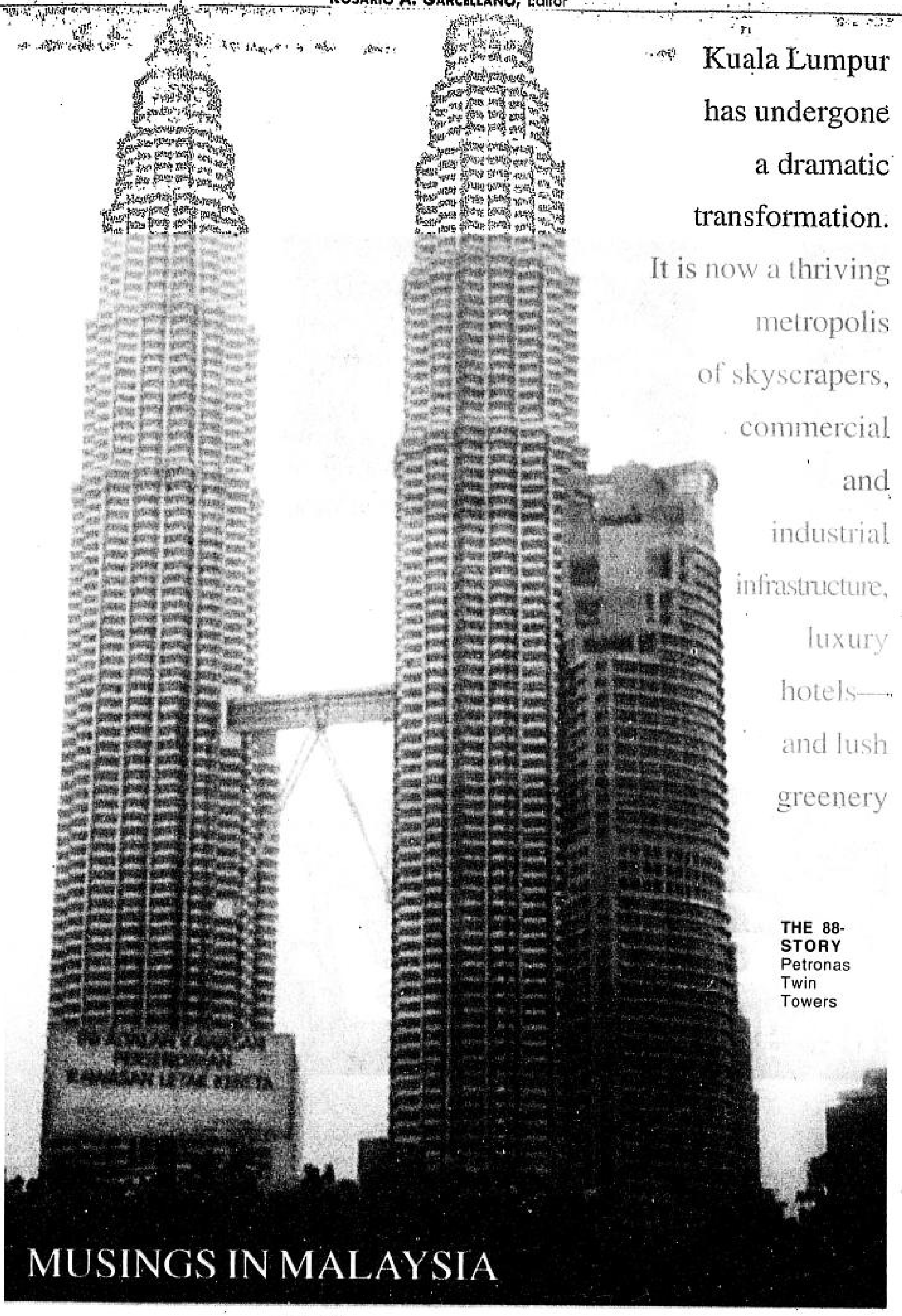
Who can claim the prizes:

1. The prize shall be awarded to the subscriber who owns the winning Globe Handyphone number/SIM card.
    - If you are a Prepaid Subscriber, you are considered the valid winner if you possess and present the SIM Card that corresponds to the winning Globe Handyphone number. You must also present a valid ID (Driver's License, Company ID, Passport) indicating the name given in the entry when redeeming your prize.
    - If you are a Plan Subscriber, you are considered the valid winner if you are the owner of the winning Globe Handyphone number based on Globe's database.
    - However, if the winning Globe Handyphone number corresponds to a subscription of a company, whether Plan or Prepaid, the prize shall be awarded to the company.
2. The name of the winner will be announced in the following week's show.
3. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from receipt of registered mail. If the prize is not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Globe Telecom with prior DTI approval.
4. When claiming your prize, you must personally proceed to Marketing Department, 4th Floor, Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong, Metro Manila during business hours (8:00 PM to 5:00 PM) and present the following:
    - The winning Globe Handyphone number (SIM Card)
    - Valid Identification (Driver's License, Passport, Company ID or, any other valid ID)
    - The Registered Mail sent to you by Globe.
5. If you won and you are a minor, you must be accompanied by your parent/guardian when claiming the prize. You and your parent/guardian should present valid identification. Your parent/guardian should also bring proof that he/she is the parent/guardian.
6. The 20% prize tax shall be borne by Globe Telecom. Any other taxes and registration fees pertaining to the registration of the vehicle awarded as prize shall be borne by the winner. Prize is not convertible to cash.
7. Employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communications, Studio 23, ABS-CBN, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from winning in the promotion.

* Photo of prizes may vary from the actual vehicle.

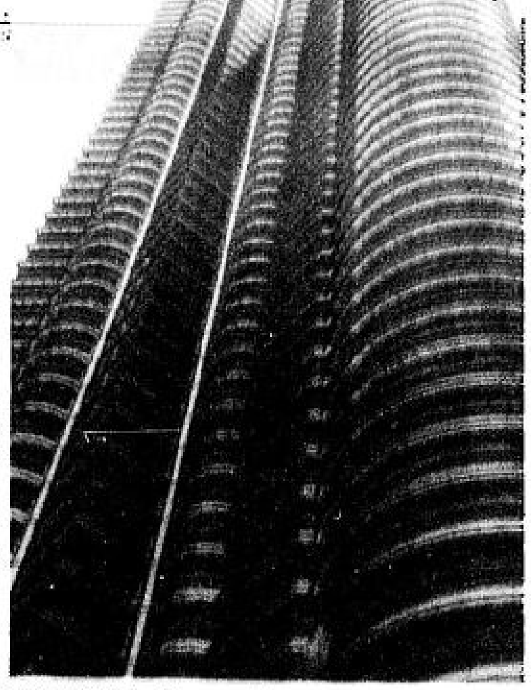
TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor



Kuala Lumpur has undergone a dramatic transformation. It is now a thriving metropolis of skyscrapers, commercial and industrial infrastructure, luxury hotels—and lush greenery

THE 88-STORY Petronas Twin Towers


TALLEST in the world

A green, clean first impression

(*First of two parts*)

BY LYDIA CLOMA

"WOW, it looks like Singapore," my four children chorus as we drive out of the new, $2-billion Kuala Lumpur International Airport, which is located in an ancient rain forest. The exit road is green, clean, and irresistibly beautiful!

"First impression—that's what we need badly in the Philippines," says my husband, Tomas Jr. "From all our airports we need to landscape and beautify our roads with trees and greenery and to screen our eyesores. Trees epitomize our Philippine summer lifestyle."

We are in Malaysia to celebrate our yearly family reunion with a trip outside the Philippines.

Actually, we were earlier booked for Korea. We dreaded the idea of going to Malaysia because of the kidnappings that the Abu Sayyaf pulled off on Sipadan Island last year. Fortunately, Mamerth Banatin, a family friend and owner of Adams Express Travel, told me about his exciting trip to Malaysia last May, during the "Colors of Malaysia" festival. He said he had tried to reach me so I could join their group, but I was then out of town. Nevertheless, he said, he could prepare a similar package tour for us.

In short, when the Korean Embassy informed us of requirements more than the usual for visa approval, we cancelled our planned trip. We decided to go to Malaysia, where no visa is required.

My past fear of Malaysia is similar to the dread that tourists feel regarding the news of the Abu Sayyaf in certain parts of Mindanao. I was unaware of how far Sipadan is from Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia's other places for tourists. In the same manner, tourists do not know that the Philippines' superlative beaches are at a safe distance from the Abu Sayyaf base.

"Selamat datang, welcome to Malaysia," says our tour manager. "My name is Norhaidean Noh, Dino for short. We will escort you in all seven days of your stay here. Your private, first-class wagon will take you to all the places listed in your itinerary. We will arrive in Melia hotel in time for your buffet dinner. Tomorrow, I will pick you up at 9 a.m. for the city tour."

Thus did our first day in Kuala Lumpur end abruptly. Because we arrived at the hotel after dark, there was nothing else to do but rush to dinner and then retire for the night.

It is regrettable that all airline flights to Malaysia from Manila depart at noon or afternoon. With 3½ hours of flight (no stopover), the earliest arrival in KL is late afternoon. Add the long drive to the city and the whole first day is totally lost. Yet it has to be counted and paid for as Day 1 for the poor traveler.

Dramatic

A tour of KL on Day 2 convinced me of Malaysia's new tenacity. The city has undergone a dramatic transformation and is now a thriving metropolis of skyscrapers, industrial and commercial infrastructure, luxury hotels, and world-class shopping centers. The landscape is dominated by the 88-story Petronas Twin Towers, so far the highest building in the world.

But a closer look shows a tapestry of contrast. Dwarfed by the highrises are charming historic buildings, old houses and roads, churches and schools, all relics of its past. And no matter how cosmopolitan KL looks today, its gleaming mosques reflect its soul, which is unequivocally Muslim.

I suddenly remember Philippine historical sites like Fort Santiago and Intramuros in Manila, and Fort San Pedro in Cebu.

Intramuros should have been preserved like the Spanish-era Vigan, where the past steps forward to meet you. The forts should have remained looking like forts, with no library, souvenir shops, canteen or soda stand within the radius of their grounds. Have they not endured the centuries to deserve the respect of their original splendor?

And if we are sufficiently intrigued to have a looksee inside the magnificent, solemn halls of Muslim mosques, surely tourists will also be fascinated to experience the Philippines' ancient and Romanesque churches. They should be faithfully restored and maintained, or decorated according to their epoch, to allow history to come alive and attest to the Filipino culture, which is essentially Christian.

Our first stop in KL is the Putraya Palace, the official residence of the King and Queen. In front of the locked gates, the ceremonial changing of the guard has just installed the fresh shift. The most popular are two horses with mounted guards in full regalia. Cameras flash and sightseers wait for their turn to pose with the guards on horseback.

I wonder out loud, What possible attraction can be displayed at the gates of Malacañang? My youngest son, John volunteers an opinion: The shoes of Imelda Marcos.

Next, we drive around Independence Square and then stop at the National Monument. We pose below the seven giant sculptured bronze soldiers. The shrine is said to be in memory of the servicemen of the Malayan infantry who bravely gave their lives during the struggle against the communist insurgency in the 1950s.

I ask Mr. Dino about the history of terrorism in Malaysia. "The first one, we fought them with our soldiers," he begins. "The second one, we had help from several foreign countries. In the case of the third one, we gave them what they demanded—to return to the fold of the government, farm lands!"

EVERYWHERE, clean streets fringed with trees

Green

Driving around the city proper in Kuala Lumpur, we notice the wide, clean and landscaped streets. We see long lines of trees fringing both sides of the streets, or clusters of them here and there, or trimmed and sculptured, with one skirting a building. There are pockets of greenery at every turn.

My eldest son Tom, who designed his own miniature city for a hobby, is inspired by KL's garden-city look.

"There are trees between buildings and buildings between trees," he observes.

I recall with pain that in Metro Manila some trees were indiscriminately cut to give way to new commercial establishments. There ought to be a law to protect our city trees. No cutting, more planting!

We stop to pose with the Petronas Twin Towers in the background.

For lunch, the nearest place to go is the Twin Towers. Located at the base of the building is the Suria KLCC, a multilevel shopping complex with restaurants. The children treat their father to a memorable Father's Day lunch. (It is a pleasant surprise for me to know that they celebrate Father's Day in Malaysia.)

The next tour is set at 6 p.m., so we all dart in different directions to browse around. Earlier, we agreed to meet at St. John's Cathedral for Mass at 5 p.m., the day being Sunday.

I walk to the popular tourist street of Jalan Bukit Bintang, which is one short block away. Here, several high-rise shopping complexes are interconnected at the ground floors for convenience. It is just like shopping in Makati or Alabang.

Actually, we are not behind in shopping elegance. But when will the Philippines have stores like Sogo, Isetan, Daimaru and Toys R Us? Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and now Malaysia have them.

Getting a taxi in KL means queuing for it. Three taxis later, the drivers are still looking at me with a puzzled look, like they never heard of St. John's Cathedral. I am about to give up until I remember what Mr. Dino told me about this church: "Do you know the church where hundreds of Filipino maids go every Sunday morning?"

Hallelujah! I make it in time for Mass.

Haggling

Petaling Street in Chinatown is a bargain hunter's paradise every night. Mr. Dino brings us here to test our haggling ability. He tips us on starting halfway down the given price before gradually climbing up, until the vendors give in.

Haggling is like a game of chance. The uninitiated can feel gypped while the expert can get away with anything at a ridiculously low price. But if you prefer to travel light, it is judicious to shift to quality instead of quantity.

Most tourists, especially the white people, are untrained in haggling. Remember, the vendor is never the loser in the game. But a tourist will long remember and will come back for hospitable experiences and will never forgive or forget a losing encounter. How about giving tourists a taste of genuine low prices, the same as that for the locals?

Dinner tonight is in a big movie restaurant where the buffet tables present a bewildering array of Malaysia's culinary heritage.

First, we sample the curried, the sweet and sour, the fragrant, the spicy, and the piquant. Later, we capitulated to the well-deserved reputation of their *sate*. Native music plus cultural dances and fine food are perfect combination.

Day 3 is a whole free day (or a shop-till-you-drop and everyone-to-him/herself day). My trips to Sogo, Isetan and Toys R Us in Mid Valley Megamall (Malaysia's largest mall) prove worth it. Collectible items, which are rare and expensive in Metro Manila, are easy to find here and cost only a third of the price at home.

The afternoon affords me a chance to sit and watch the world go by. In a land of only 22 million people, with Malays in the majority, it is easy to spot them anywhere because of their Filipino-Malay features. The men here are in shirts and long pants, and usually wear ties. The women wear long dresses with bandanas covering their heads, like the Muslim ladies back home.

The Chinese are mostly behind the counters of jewelry shops and electronics and camera stores. The Indians among them are easily visible—tall, dark, fine-featured men, and neatly attired, too, their ladies dressed in attractive saris. The other minorities blend so well I cannot tell the Ceylonese from the Pakistanis and the Dayaks.

Laid-back

The tourists from all over the world stand out conspicuously in their abbreviated attires of T-shirts, short pants and sandals.

I caution my family against wearing too laid-back clothes at the expense of appearance and personality. In some countries where there are Filipino laborers and domestic workers, Filipino tourists are mistaken for "workers" and are not regarded with respect by some sectors. Besides, I knew we were to stay in fine hotels, one of which is a country club where a dress code is strictly enforced.

Here in KL they don't drive away Filipino shoppers with the familiar Hong Kong insult: "You can't afford it." The Malaysians are polite and tactful. But there is that clear, reserved demeanor in their reluctant half smile at first meeting (which means, don't giggle away at first encounter). Later, however, they also learn to chuckle along with you. (*To be concluded*)

MOUNTED guard at the Putraya Palace

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Airline partnerships

CATHAY Pacific Airways (CX) and Philippine Airlines (PAL) have signed a code-share agreement involving flights between Hong Kong and Cebu.

Under the agreement, which took effect on Nov. 5, CX will continue to operate seven return flights a week between Hong Kong and Cebu, and PAL will place its airline code on the flights.

The two airlines entered the agreement to help preserve a daily flight between Hong Kong and Cebu, which would otherwise be difficult given the challenges facing the airline industry.

On Mondays, Fridays and Sundays, flight CX921/PR921 will depart Hong Kong at 4 p.m. and arrive in Cebu at 6:40 p.m. The return flight, CX920/PR920, will leave Cebu at 7:55 p.m. and arrive in Hong Kong at 10:35 p.m.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, flight CX921/PR921 will depart Hong Kong at 7:50 a.m. and arrive in Cebu at 10:30 a.m. CX920/PR920 will leave Cebu at 11:40 a.m. and arrive in Hong Kong at 2:20 p.m.

* * *

STARTING this month, Asiana Airlines (OZ) will partner with Singapore Airlines (SQ) in its latest fully reciprocal frequent flyer agreement. Asiana launched partnerships with Cathay Pacific Airways earlier this year and also became a member of Asia Miles, one of the largest global travel business alliances.

SQ's KrisFlyer and Asiana Club members will benefit from the agreement with mileage points earned on either partner's routes. Members of both programs can also redeem these miles on either airline.

"Asiana Club members also earn a 50-percent mileage bonus whenever they fly first class and 25 percent on business class on every Singapore Airlines route as well," said Rene Banzon, OZ general manager for passengers.

Asiana Club members will find a mileage chart for SQ awards that can be earned in their latest publication issue available at the OZ ticket counter in Makati City.

In celebration of the agreement, OZ is offering an introductory "World's Best Partnership" bonus for club members on every round-trip flight on SQ anywhere in the world. From November until Dec. 15, Asiana Club members can simply present their card upon check-in at an SQ flight and earn bonus miles at the end of the roundtrip itinerary.

For inquiries, call 892-5681 to 88

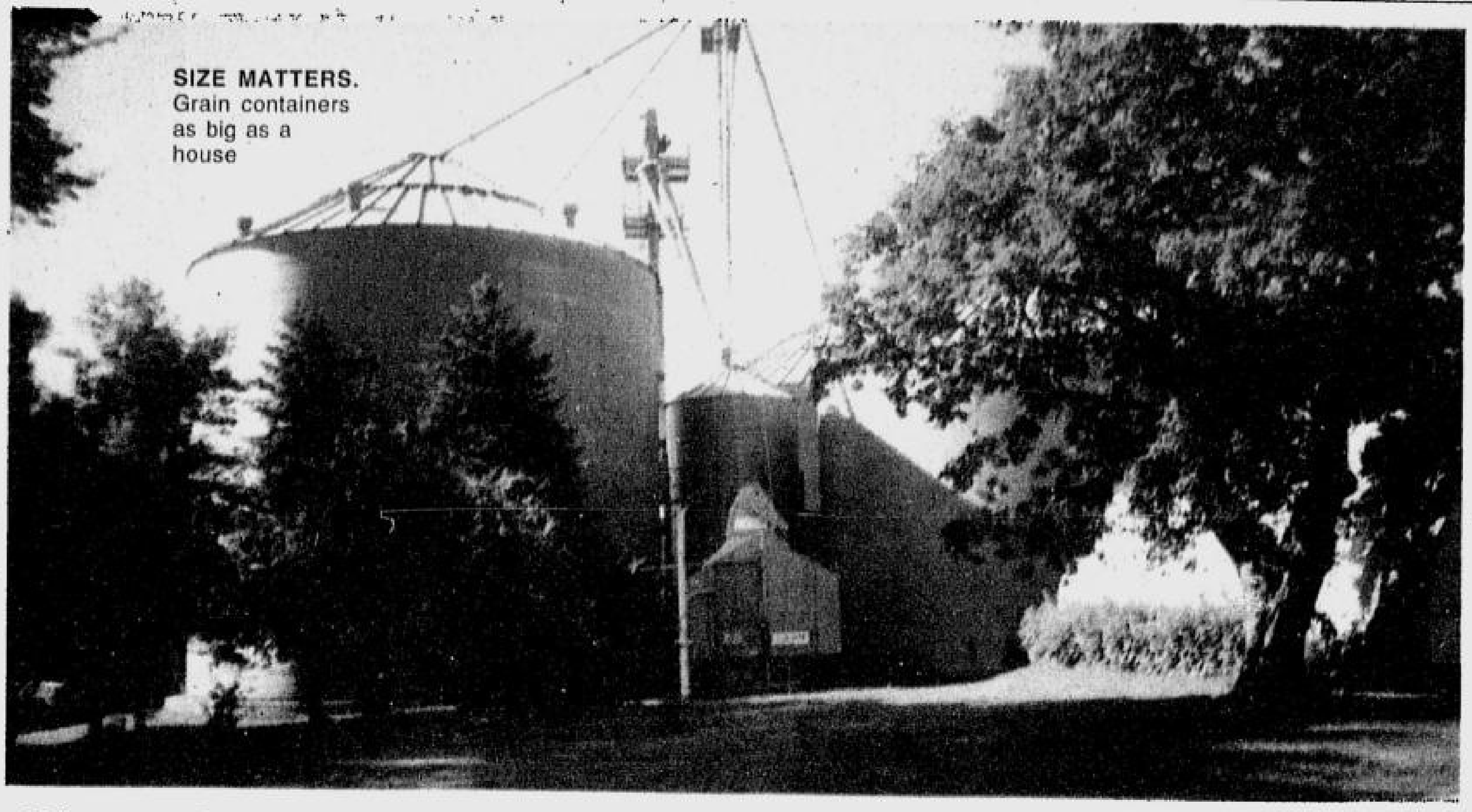
Travel Mart

THE 12th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) will be held Nov. 23-25 at the Megatrade Hall in SM Megamall.

The PTM, which has as its theme this year "Rising Above the Challenges," is known as the biggest tourism and travel show in the country based on the wide participation of both private and public sectors.

It is being held under the auspices of the Philippine Travel Mart Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This year's PTM will feature separate pavilions for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, a business-matching program and agro-tourism sites. Special events, including a parade of Philippine festivals, have also been lined up.



SIZE MATTERS. Grain containers as big as a house

WHERE'S THE PITCHFORK? The author with Peggy and Sandy Ludeman

Saying grace in America

(From page E1)

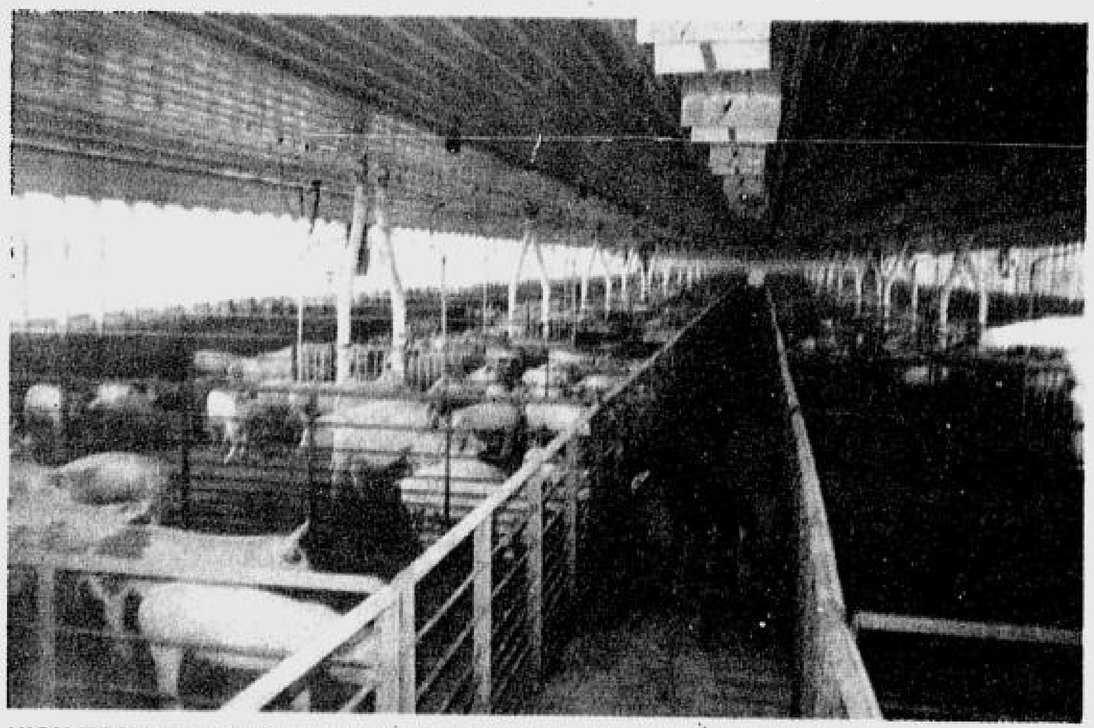
Crumbling

Like the Ludeman children, many have opted to live elsewhere. Empty and crumbling barns and houses once thriving with human activity have become sad reminders of the unfolding change in rural America. Part of the reason, I have been told, is the continuing migration of young people to the cities in search of bigger careers and more lifestyle options.

With no one left to take over, not a few farmers have been forced to sell their farms and sometimes even their homes. A sad development, indeed. And this development hasn't spared Tracy where familiar establishments people have grown up with are now closing one after the other because of lack of customers. Just recently, the town's lone furniture store went out of business. Before that, a fine dining restaurant closed shop.

Rather than quietly accept the inevitable, farmers like Sandy have learned to work around their limitations. If anything, these creeping developments have become opportunities for many Americans to plumb a wellspring of ingenuity and display that trademark can-do attitude. How Sandy and his two brothers and a nephew are able to manage such a huge farm and several hog barns simply boggles my mind.

> Good old-fashioned family values thrive in America, with or without terrorist attacks



HIGH-TECH HOME. Pigs are fed ground corn and soybeans through computer-controlled feeding tubes.

Adjusting

What they lack in warm bodies they more than make up for with bigger, more sophisticated farm machinery. Thanks also to better-yielding and more pest-resistant corn and soybean varieties, it now takes as few as four men to do the job of, say, 40 people as recent as two generations ago.

Yes, the foul odor typical of all hog barns clung to my borrowed clothes as I inspected the place, but I was simply too awed to notice while Sandy showed me around. Aside from being relatively clean, these barns, each housing 500 pigs, came with such unheard of features as computer-controlled feeding tubes and temperature-controlled sprinklers and curtains to lessen the work and keep pigs healthy.

Filipino farmers, who are still stuck with the trusty *araro* (plowshare) and the carabao, could certainly learn a lot from their American counterparts. If only they have access to such advances in science imagine what they could do to dramatically improve the country's food production and ensure their livelihood. Indeed, Sandy and Peggy Ludeman have plenty of reasons to thank God.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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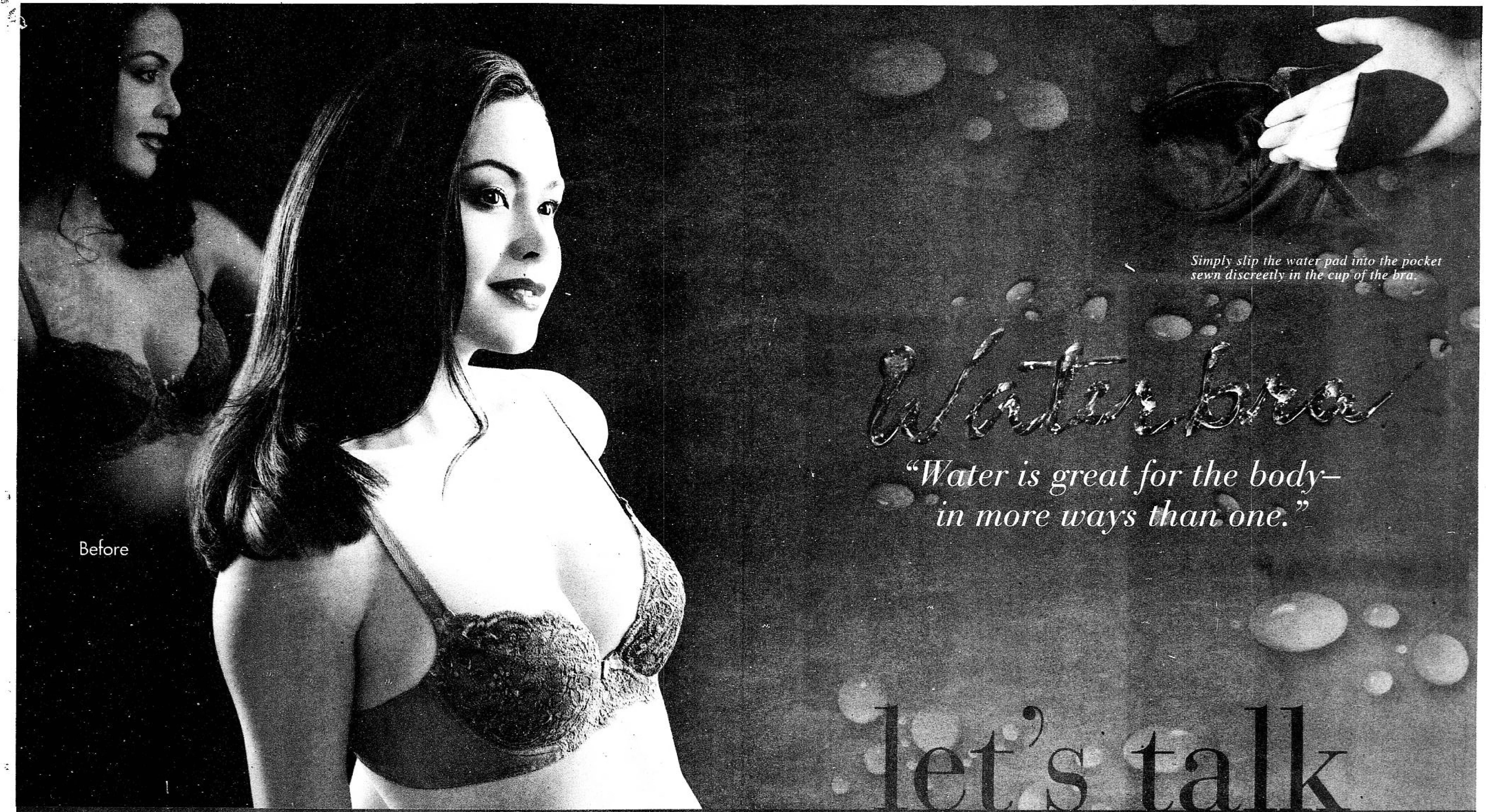
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Kindred spirits to auction off festive trees and artworks

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

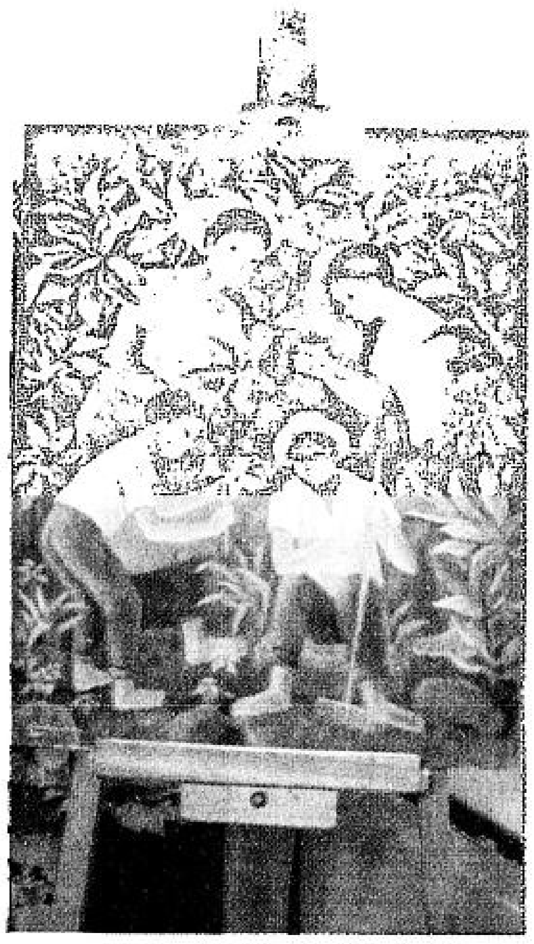
TO HEAR these ladies talk about "Festival of Trees," you'd think it's their firstborn, or their youngest, or whichever is the favorite offspring.

This year, the ladies of the Makati Garden Club and their partners at the Philippine Business for Social Progress are feeling more optimistic than most about their fund-raiser. Goal for the 2001 harvest is an audacious P10 million. Why not, indeed? End results of the previous events have all exceeded expectations. Might as well aim high.

Untold surprises

Started in 1995, the Festival of Trees is an annual fund-raising campaign that derives its revenues from corporate sponsorships, the stabilizing silent factor; and the auction of generously donated art pieces, the "party" factor that never fails to score untold surprises. Funds raised up till last year have reached P28 million. These have come from direct project donations, table sponsorships (during the dinner-auction events)

KINDRED/p.F4



WORLD-CLASS Filipino painter Anita Magsaysay-Ho joins the cause to save the country's environment when her latest work, "Jardin de San Francisco" (above), is auctioned at the 7th Festival of Trees gala dinner. It is organized by Makati Garden Club and the Philippine Business for Social Progress, and will be held on Nov. 21 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio. At last year's edition of the Festival of Trees, the acclaimed artist donated another painting that fetched for a hefty P3 million. On the other hand, smaller scale art pieces and Christmas décors deemed accessible to smaller buyers, will be up for silent auction.

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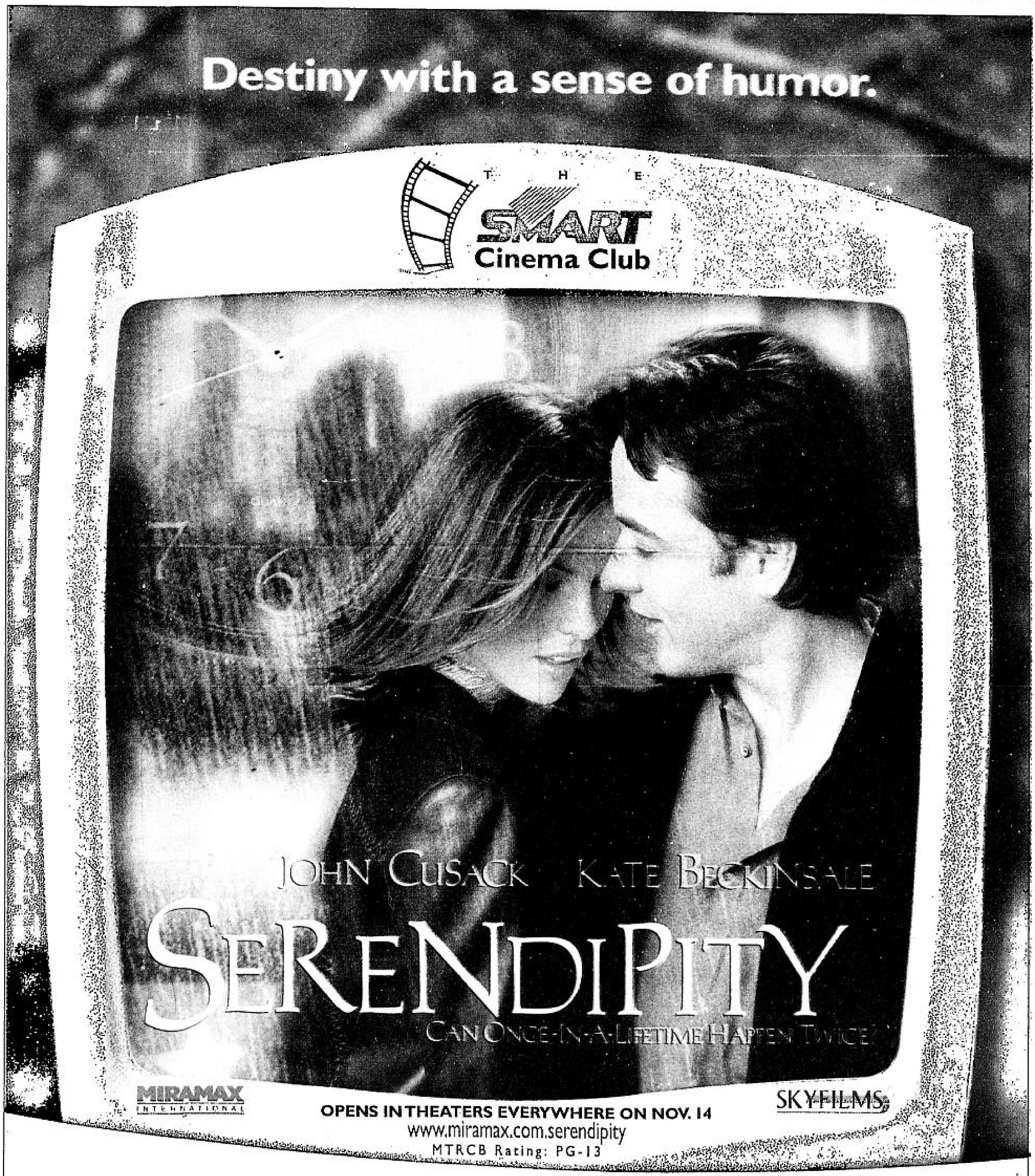

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sdsrndptystars (Picture Message/Screen Saver)

To join, key in **JOIN CINEMA**. You'll be able to download Serendipity *picture messages* (key in **PIC SD** for list of keywords, and **PIC** <keyword> to download), *logos** (key in **LOGO SD** for list of keywords, and **LOGO** <keyword> to download), *group graphics** (key in **GROUP SD** for list of keywords, and **GROUP** <keyword> to download), *screen savers*** (key in **SAVER SD** for list of keywords and **SAVER** <keyword> to download), *ringtones* (**TONE SD** for list of keywords, and **TONE** <keyword> to download), or experiment with the tests and game. If you need more info, key in **HELP** <command>. To qualify for the promo, key in **WIN SD**. Send all commands to 239.

Is He/She The One?	Are You Soul Mates?	Can You Be More Than Friends?	Common Thoughts
Find out if he or she is the right person for you. Key in **PLAY SD**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	This test tells you if you're soul mates or not. Key in **PLAY SD2**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	Falling in love with a pal? Find out if there's something between the two of you. Key in **PLAY SD3**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	Get a regular dose of quiz questions with this game. Simply key in **CT ON**. To answer the questions, key in **CT** and the letter <A,B,C, or D> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.

All text messages will be charged P2.50 each. Logos, graphics, picture messages and screen savers are P12.00 each.

Note: If you're playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you start a test or game.

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only
**Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250

Promo Mechanics:

1. From Nov. 9-15, 2001, all Smart Cinema Club members who download a picture, operator logo, group graphic icon, or screen saver get one computer-generated point each. The top 100 members with the highest points collected will win two tickets each for the regular showing of Serendipity. To qualify for the promo, members must type WIN SD and send to 239. To know the number of points accumulated, key in DPOINTS and send to 239.
2. Winners will be notified via text message or a call to their registered cellfone no. only.
3. Smart Money cardholders who use their card to buy any movie ticket at any SM Megamall cinema from Nov. 9-15 are also entitled to a pair of Serendipity tickets.
4. For Smart Cinema Club winners, tickets will be sent to their registered addresses.
5. Smart Money winners can claim their movie tickets at the Smart TSI office, 5th Level, SM Megamall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong City. They must present their Smart Money receipt as proof of purchase. They can avail themselves of the promo only once.
6. Promos are valid for GMA residents only.

In cooperation with: MIRAMAX INTERNATIONAL TAPESTRY FILMS
Powered by: Information Gateway

SMART Simply Amazing!

See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1749 & A3-710 Series of 2001.

SMART Money Use your Smart Money to buy movie tickets in SM Megamall and get free movie passes to Serendipity.

Last quarter promo
Php 2,600 nett
INCLUSIONS:
- *Single or double occupancy*
- *Free in-room massage*
- *Free use of the Gym*
- *Free use of the swimming pool*
- *Promo rate is valid any day of the week*

City Garden Hotel
Makati
7870 Makati Ave. Corner Kalayaan Avenues, Makati City
Tel.: (632) 899-1111 • Fax (632) 899-1415
E-mail citygarden@pacific.net.ph

A gift you can give yourself

(From page F8)

where. I actually remember her stepping backward and then bumping, seemingly deliberately, the first lady at the CCP during an opera. The nerve of that woman!

"I don't know what it is about mistresses but they seem to have this irrational urge to, first, be recognized as the wife and then to make fun of the wife. Once, while having my hair done at a salon, I had the misfortune of sitting next to a seemingly put-together woman who was chattering quite loudly and kept referring to herself as 'Mrs.,' which was quite strange as the real missus was a very good friend of mine. As she continued to talk, I got so upset that my hair started to curl without the benefit of a curling iron. She even had the audacity to laugh at my friend's wardrobe, which she said was cheap. At that point, I couldn't contain myself any longer and took the now useless curling iron and smacked her right across the face with it, declaring that 'I know Mrs…' and she most certainly was not Mrs…

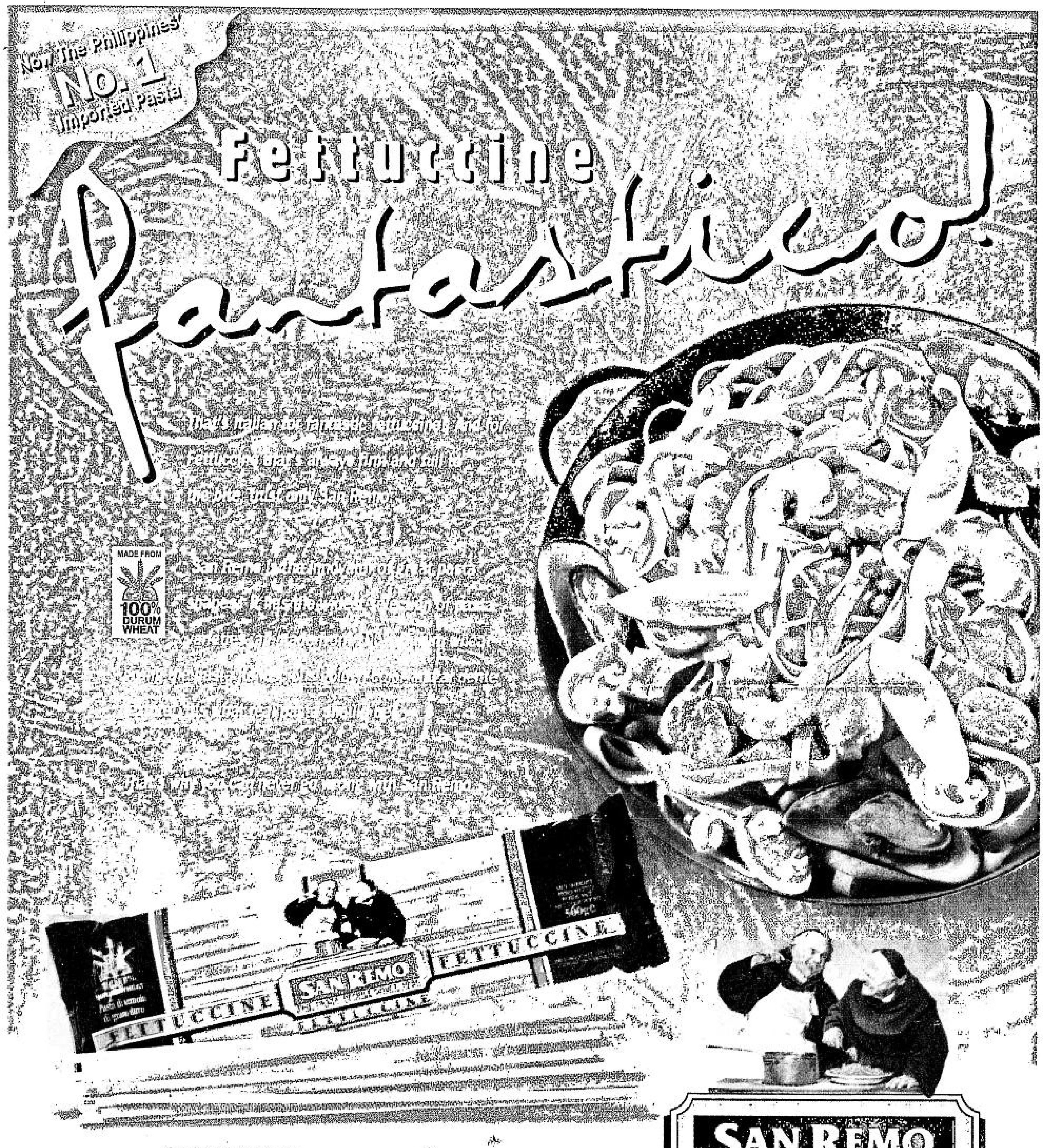
"I hooked up with my old/ex (take your pick) friend **Loi** partly because she was the first wife. But society took to the many, many mistresses with absolute abandon, supposedly because they were more powerful than the long-suffering first lady. None of the mistresses were gracious, glamorous courtesans like, say, **Pamela Harriman.** They are just tacky ex-showgirls and stewardesses—look at tawdry, overweight **Laarni Enriquez**, her Boracay mansion and that monstrosity of a house in Wack Wack.

"Much as I tried to persuade Loi to put a stop to all this, she always refused because she said she had to stand by her man. But I guess she had the last laugh since she is now a senator while all those tacky ex-showgirls are running out of money and will no doubt have to start shaking their (ample) booties again!

"Nowadays, there does seem to be an increasing tolerance of mistresses. And why do wives have this martyr complex and tolerate their husbands' increasingly public philandering? I'm here to tell you—it's because of our lack of a divorce law. Women can't leave their husbands because they can't assure themselves of an income. If we have a divorce law, they could go after everything their husbands have and leave both him and his mistress with nothing. And trust me: no money, no honey.

"Until we have a divorce law, I am going to keep my stand against mistresses and their paramours. All you wives out there—let's please stick together and deprive them of what they want most—our acceptance. Don't talk to them, be rude to them and, when given the opportunity—smack them with a curling iron!

E-mail the author at asd-world@-hotmail.com


Now The Philippines' No. 1 Imported Pasta
Fettuccine fantastico!
MADE FROM 100% DURUM WHEAT
SAN REMO FETTUCCINE
SAN REMO
THE PASTA PEOPLE SINCE 1936

San Remo Fettuccine
Rich and heavy sauces like cream, meat and tomato sauces like the one above are best with Fettuccine because the sauce sticks to the flat, wide ribbons.

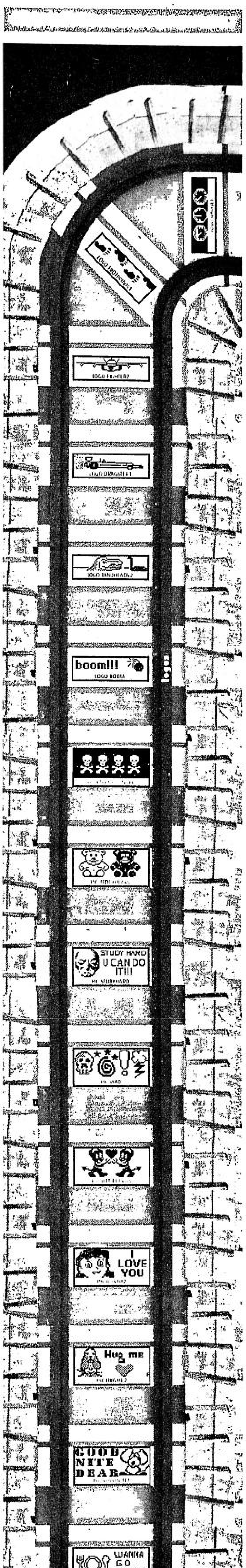
It's Time You Had Real Pasta

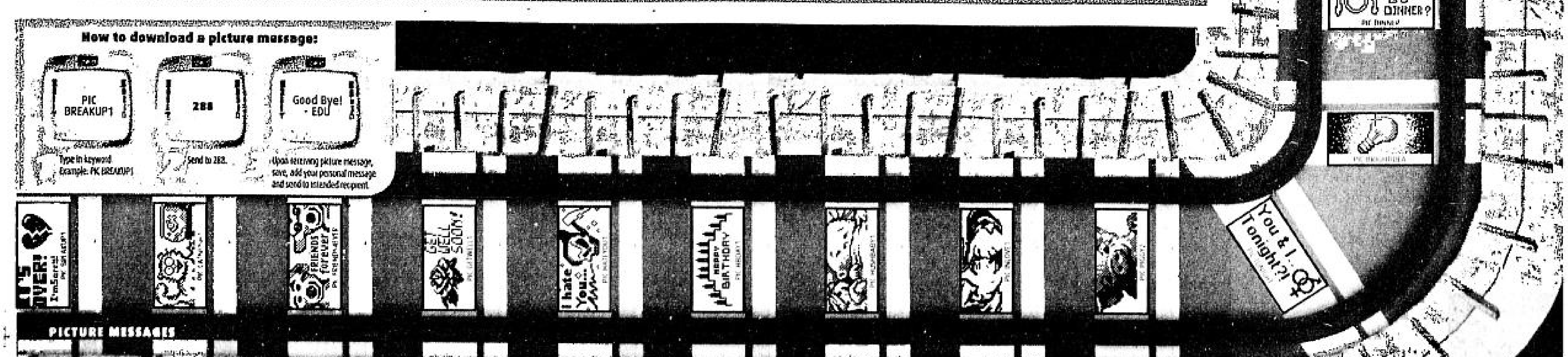
Featured Recipe: PAELLA PASTA

INGREDIENTS
500g San Remo Fettuccine
250g clams
300g medium-sized shrimp
250g mussels
1/2 kilo chicken, cut into serving pieces
1/4 kilo pork, cut into serving pieces
150g ham, cut into 1/2-inch squares
1 pc. chorizo de bilbao, sliced
2 tbsp. olive oil
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 onion, finely chopped
1 cup tomato sauce
1 pc. red bell pepper, cut into strips
2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup peas
2 hard boiled eggs, sliced
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. dried basil

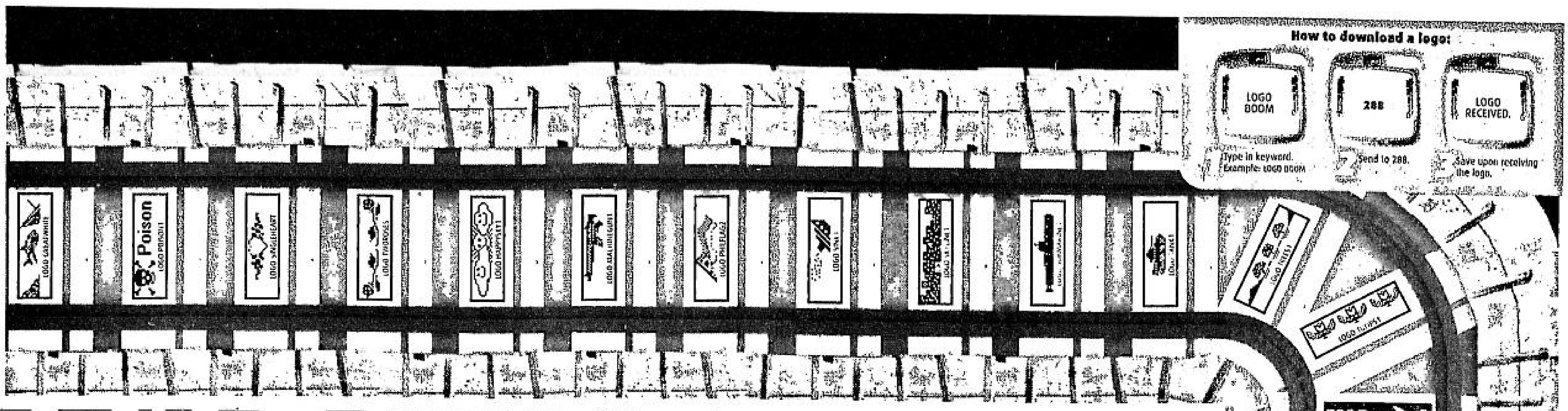
PROCEDURE:
1. Cook Fettuccine according to package directions. Set aside.
2. Boil clams and set aside 1 cup broth.
3. Boil mussels separately.
4. Heat oil in a pan. Fry chicken, pork, ham and chorizo. Cover until half done. Set aside.
5. Saute garlic, onion, tomato sauce and shrimp.
6. Add clam broth and fried meats. Simmer until pork and chicken are tender.
7. Add red bell pepper, peas and clams.
8. Season with salt, sugar and basil. Simmer for 6-7 miuntes.
9. Serve over cooked fettuccine. Garnish with eggs.

For more exciting and appetizing recipes log on to www.san-remo.com.au or e-mail us at sysumktg@info.com.ph





How to download a picture message:
Type in keyword Example: PIC BREAKUP1
Send to 288.
Upon receiving picture message, save, add your personal message and send to intended recipient.

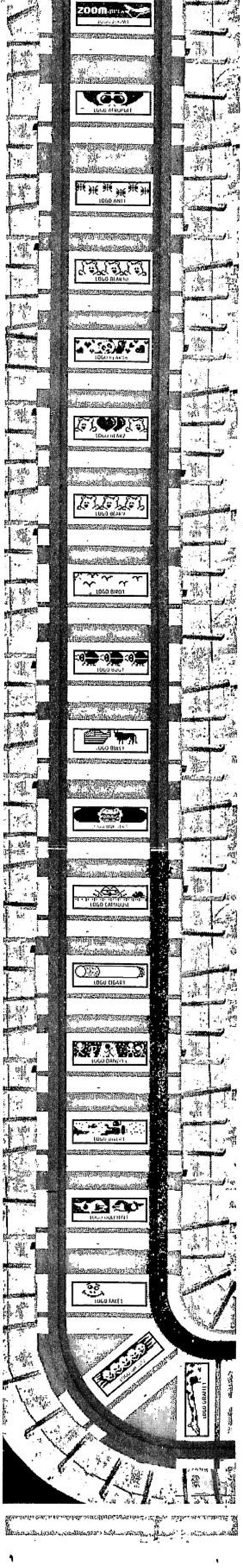

How to download a logo:
LOGO BOOM
288
LOGO RECEIVED.
Type in keyword. Example: LOGO BOOM
Send to 288.
Save upon receiving the logo.

ASLP holds workshop

THE ASSOCIATION of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP) is sponsoring a seminar-workshop on "Communication Skills: the Use and Application," on Nov. 21-23, at the Hyatt Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The seminar aims to apply the latest technology as an aid in enhancing oral and written communication skills for professional growth and efficiency. Call Tina at 893-9590, Cora at 524-9217, and Mila at 521-7223.

Raffle winners announced

A.M. Metrostars Party Sales Inc. has announced the winners of its Nov. 5 draw. They are: Leonida Batalla (1st prize, 14" color TV), Lyden Bantilan (2nd prize, Nokia 3310), Emma Laurencio (3rd prize, turbo fan), Liza Crescine (4th prize, pressure cooker), Ronald Allan Belzena (5th prize, quick chopper). Winners of 10 consolation prizes are: Adelaida Cabantug (small ice chest), Helen Kwong (large ice chest), Josepha Dorongan (picnic basket), Ma. Socorro Dublin (picnic basket), Eden J. Bulacan (Pokémon bag), Lilybeth Lino (picnic mat), Edna Cabrera (picnic mat), Albert Pineda (Tiwi backpack), Efren Y. Yanga (Tiwi backpack) and Myrna Pamplona (roll-away bin).



Join!
AVON
Christmas
ADVENTURE
Raffle Promo
Win!
10
Mitsubishi Adventure GL 2001
Plus other exciting prizes!
MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE
84
Winners of Philips 20" Color TV Sets
300
Winners of Motorola V2288 Cellphones
(Includes Earphones for FMRadio feature, and SIM Cards withP300 pre-loaded amount)
150
Winners of Philips Portable CD-Radio-Cassette Recorders
5,000
Winners of P500 CASH
Brought to you in cooperation with
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Overnight Adventure Bag
Actual Value P209
ONLY P109
SAVE P100

Buy **P500** worth of any **Cosmetics, Fragrance, Skin Care, Personal Care, Intimate Apparel,** or **Wellness products** and get one (1) Raffle Coupon **PLUS** an option to buy this **OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE BAG for only P109!** (Cash basis only)

Who can Join!

All Avon Customers and their corresponding Franchise Dealers (FDs)/ Certified Beauty Consultants (CBCs).

How to Join!

- Starting November 1 to 30*, buy P500 worth of any Cosmetics, Fragrance, Skin Care, Personal Care, Intimate Apparel, or Wellness products, and get one (1) Raffle Coupon, PLUS a chance to buy the Overnight Adventure Bag for only P109! (Cash basis only)

*October 1 to 31 in Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas, Dumaguete, San Carlos, Antique, and Kalibo Outlets.

- Fill out the Raffle Coupon. Detach and drop the lower portion in designated Drop Boxes in any Avon Outlet nearest you. You may ask your Avon Lady to drop the lower portion of the coupon for you. Incomplete or hard-to-read entries will be disqualified. Both the Customer and FD / CBC must keep their claim stubs which they will use when claiming prizes.
- To avail of the Overnight Adventure Bag Premium, present the lower portion of the Raffle Coupon plus P109 to your Avon Lady or to assigned areas in Avon Outlets.
- There will be two (2) Raffle Draws in every Avon Branch. The two draws will be conducted two weeks apart, and will culminate in the Grand Raffle Draw. All non-winning entries dropped in Avon Service Centers and Boutiques will also be included in the Branch Raffle Draws.

[illegible]

- See the Avon November Brochure and posters for more details.

For inquiries, in Metro Manila, call 864-2900 or Toll-free
1-800-1-888-2866 (AVON) anywhere in the Philippines.
E-mail: helpdesk.ph@avon.com

- All prizes, except for the Mitsubishi Adventure Vans, will be raffled off during the Branch Draws. Prizes will be made available in the branches during the draw for immediate claiming by winners.
- Customers may only win once per Branch Raffle Draw and Grand Draw. The prize with the higher cash value will be awarded, while the one with lower cash value will be raffled off again.
- A Customer may qualify for both Branch Draws provided she submits new entries for the Second Branch Raffle Draw.
- Whatever the Customer wins, her Avon FD/CBC Partner wins, too! Avon FDs/CBCs may win as many times as possible, provided they win with different Customer-Partners.

The Grand Raffle Draw!

- Entries that did not win in the First Branch Raffle Draw will be disqualified from the Second Branch Raffle Draw, but will qualify for the Grand Raffle Draw on December 18, 2001 at Avon Taft Branch. Entries that did not win in the Second Branch Raffle Draw will also qualify for the Grand Raffle Draw.
- Ten (10) Mitsubishi Adventure Vans will be raffled off.
- There will be five (5) pairs of Grand Draw Winners. Each pair will be composed of one (1) Customer and her corresponding FD/CBC Partner.
- The number of Grand Prize Winners per region will be drawn as follows: one (1) pair of winners each (composed of the Customer and her Avon FD/CBC Partner) from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and two (2) pairs of winners from the NCR.
- Winners below 18 years of age must be accompanied by their parents or legal guardians when claiming their prizes. Parents or legal guardians must present proofs of such status.
- Avon will entertain claims and will award prizes only to the person whose name appears on the winning raffle coupon. Likewise, Avon will assign and release all car registration documents only in the names of the winners. Winners will be notified by telegram or registered mail on when and where to claim their prizes.
- All winners (Customers, Avon FDs/CBCs) must present their claim stubs and one (1) valid ID when claiming their prizes. In case of lost stubs, winners must present at least two (2) valid IDs.
- Prizes for both the Branch and Grand Raffle Draws, which are not claimed within sixty (60) days from date of notification, shall be forfeited.
- Prizes are not transferable and not convertible to cash.
- Avon Cosmetics, Inc. will shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.

DISQUALIFICATIONS!

- Franchise Managers are not qualified to join as Customer-Partners or FDs/CBCs.
- Employees of Avon, their merchants, advertising, security and manpower agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
- Avon reserves the right to disqualify any coupon, entry, or winner for violation of Promo Rules.

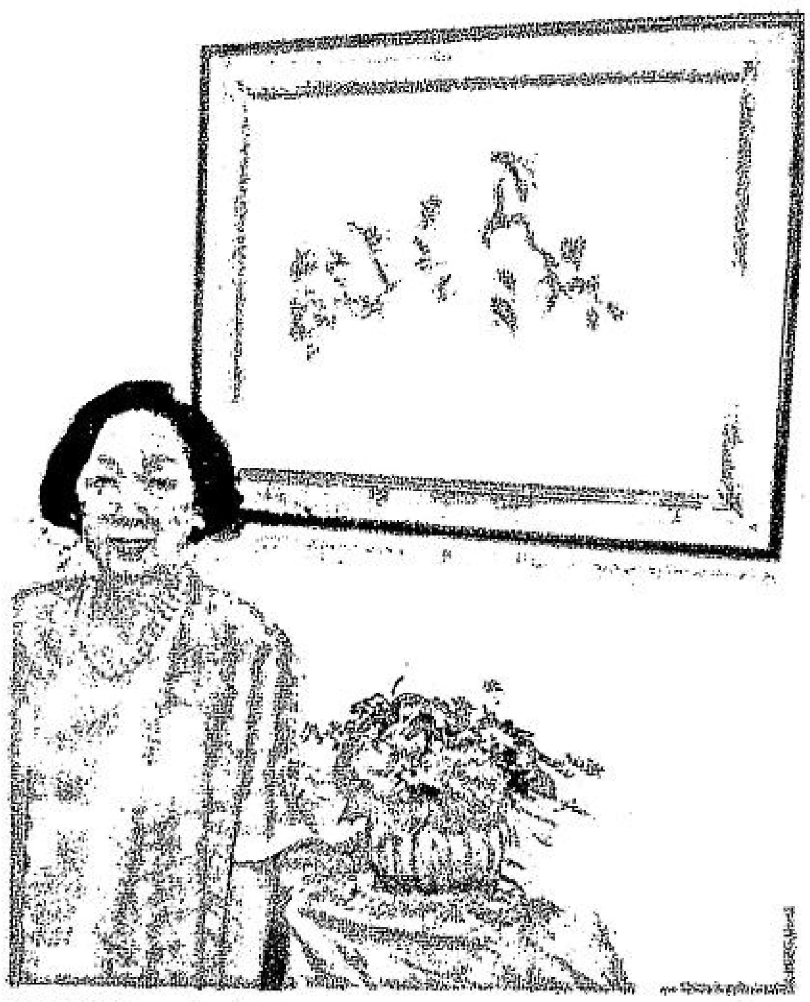
Per DOH - BFAD Permit No.06795.2001

EMILY Cruz with tabletop tree

MALOU Veloso with her birdcage tree

MA. Luisa Perez-Rubio with her tree all dressed-up for Christmas

Kindred spirits to auction off festive trees and artworks


CHING Caluag beside her donated painting

(From page F1)

and sales from the silent and oral auction.

A perfect picture

"Save our trees, save our seas," is the rallying call that these ladies heed, and Festival of Trees 2001 continues the work started in Maqueda Bay, Olango Island and Ragay Gulf. Apart from the auction event, they are soliciting corporate sponsorships for seven distinct segments of the projected work: Establish a Marine Hatchery (P500,000), Broodstock Development (P100,000 per fish species), Adopt-a-Marine Sanctuary (P350,000), Reforest-a-Mangrove area (P30,000 per hectare), Sponsor-a-Farmer/Fisher Folk (P30,000 per beneficiary), Develop-a-Community Enterprise (P250,000 per community), Safe Water for the Community (P100,000 per community).

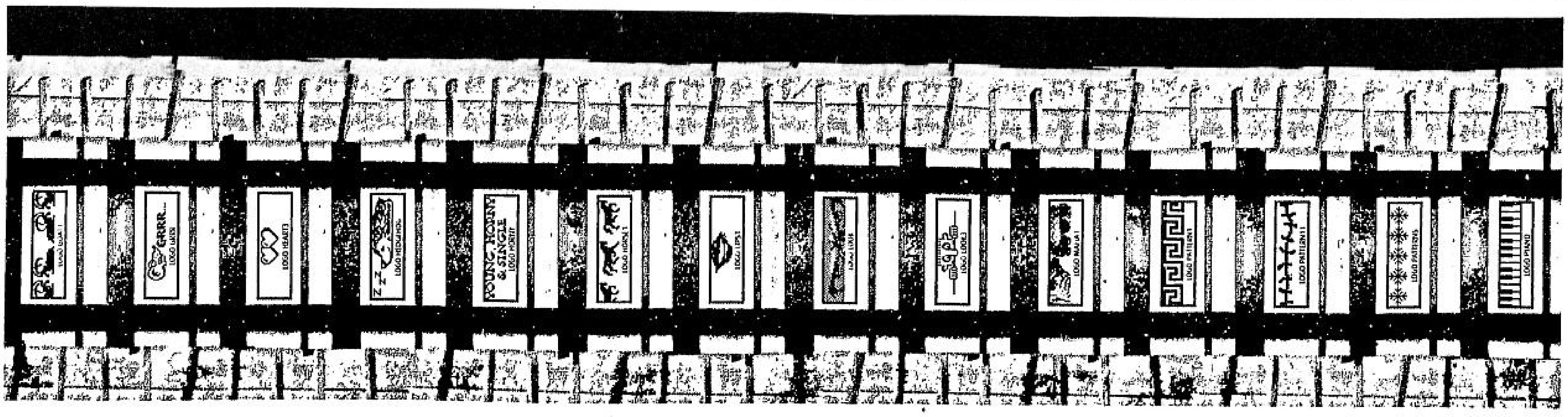
Many firsts mark this year's auction. Tabletop trees replace the floor-to-ceiling creations of previous events. The art pieces are smaller, too. Everything will be put up for silent auction, except for yet another canvas by Anita Magsaysay-Ho, the world-renowned artist whose works have been the top items on the floor for the past four years and who has been the festival's most generous benefactor. "Silent auction is friendlier to small buyers, which we're sure we'll have a lot of this year," says Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, who is vice chair to businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

In place of the previous public auctions, there will be a musical-comedy dinner-show featuring Mitch Valdez, Gary Valenciano and Spirit of '67, which will be another fund-raiser at P10,000 for ringside seats, P7,000 for orchestra seats and P3,000 for balcony seats. For the first time, too, the dinner event goes from the Manila Polo Club to the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

GING de los Reyes with her herb garden creation

Call 527-7741 to -51, fax 527-3743 or e-mail fot@pbsp.org.ph.

THE LADIES of the Makati Garden Club: (from left) Jovie Bunao, Nene Mathay, Ching Caluag, Linda Miranda, Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, Flor Tarriela, Baby Paterno, Ging de los Reyes, Emily Cruz, Albertine Santi, Melinda Zeñarosa and Lita Ungson



Choice of bazaars for early shoppers

METROBANK Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City will be held on Nov. 16-18, at 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at Le Pavilion within the 40-hectare Metropolitan Park along Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa Extension, Pasay City.

The three-day shopping event, with more than 100 merchants participating, is the biggest bazaar to be organized by a credit card company. All purchases, including food items, can be charged to any Metrobank credit card—Visa, MasterCard, Value Visa, or Unicard—and may be paid on installment at a very low interest rate of 1.5 percent a month. But the bazaar is not exclusive to cardholders. Prepaid shopping cards are available within the venue. Items on sale at the bazaar are priced at discounts of up to 75 percent.

As an added treat, the Metrobank Group is also offering free services such as blood pressure reading, blood typing and sugar counting courtesy of the Manila Doctors' Hospital; nine-point check up from Toyota Manila Bay, Toyota Cubao and Toyota Marikina; and personal accident insurance from Philippine AXA Life. An hourly raffle draw will give away watches, eyewear, T-shirts, gift checks and personal accident insurance plans.

Decor for home, office

CHRISTMAS Gallery 1 and 2 to be held Nov. 3 and 10, respectively, at the Makati Sports Club, will showcase a wide variety of Christmas decor for the home and office. Among the vendors at the two events are Aesthetics Depot, A Christmas Company, CJRV, Jo-ann Crespo, Laly Etroit and Nature's Company.

More than 130 vendors will offer a wide and dazzling array of merchandise including garments for children and adults, shoes and bags, body-care products, home décor, novelty and gift items and food.

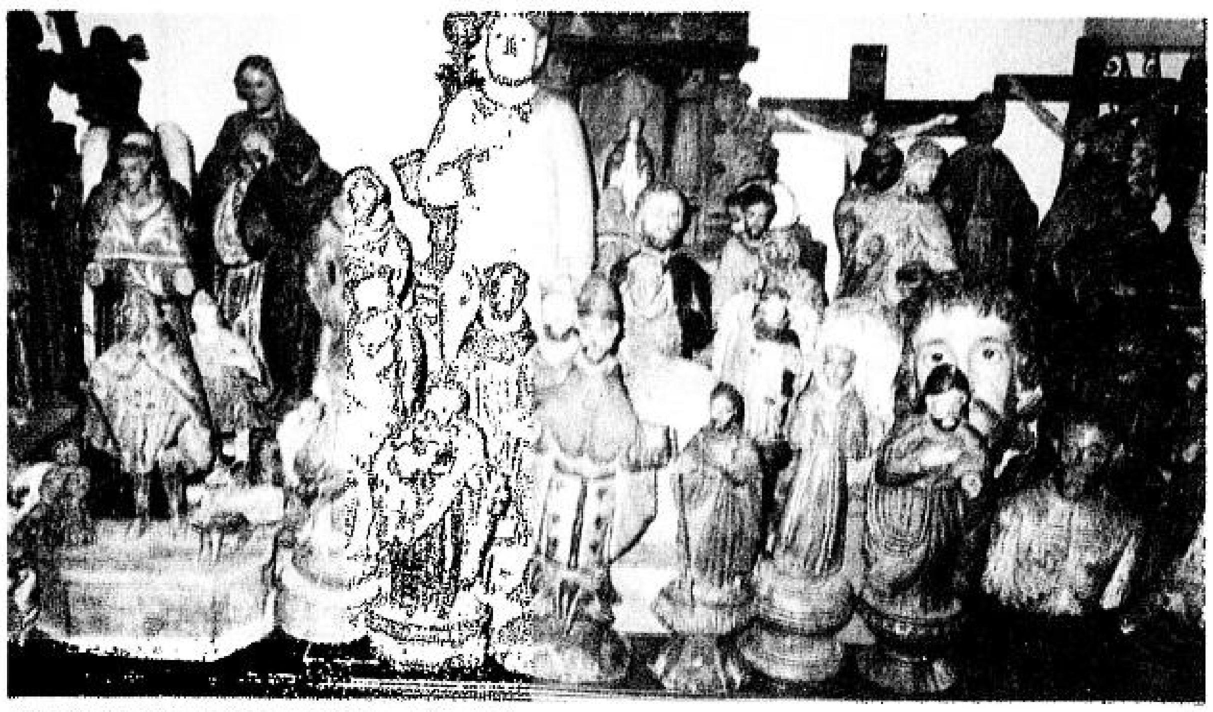
For the first time ever, Starbucks Coffee is showing off its merchandise in a bazaar. Other vendors exclusive only to Christmas Gallery are Allegro Pacific and "'Wind and Water" indoor fountains.

Major credit cards will be accepted while valuable prizes are also at stake in the hourly raffles. Casino Filipino is a major sponsor of the event, which will benefit the Carmelite Sisters of Lipa, Gilmore, Subic, La Union and Ozamiz, Kalfi and Bahay Pangarap..

Call 671-2493 and 671-2497.

Manila's biggest flea market opens

THE HARRISON Plaza Bargain Centre, which opened recently, will have more than 700 booths offering a variety of merchandise, including cellular phones, houseware car accessories, clothes, toys, leather goods, jewelry, electronic devices, home decor appliances, ornamental plants and school supplies.


ANTIQUE religious images by Chanalli Gallery

BARGAIN Center at Harrison Plaza

Located at the back of Rustan's Supermarket in Harrison Plaza, the bargain center is fully air-conditioned. Entrance is through the door facing the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas complex on A. Mabini Street, or inside Harrison Plaza, between Rustan's Supermarket and Abensons, or on the second floor between Goldilocks and Dunkin' Donuts.

Call 526-7128 and 536-0891.

One-of-a-kind

"THE SEASON'S Best," a one-of-a-kind bazaar, will be held at the G/F and 9/F of the Urban Bank Plaza in Pasong Tamo, Makati City, Dec. 7-9.

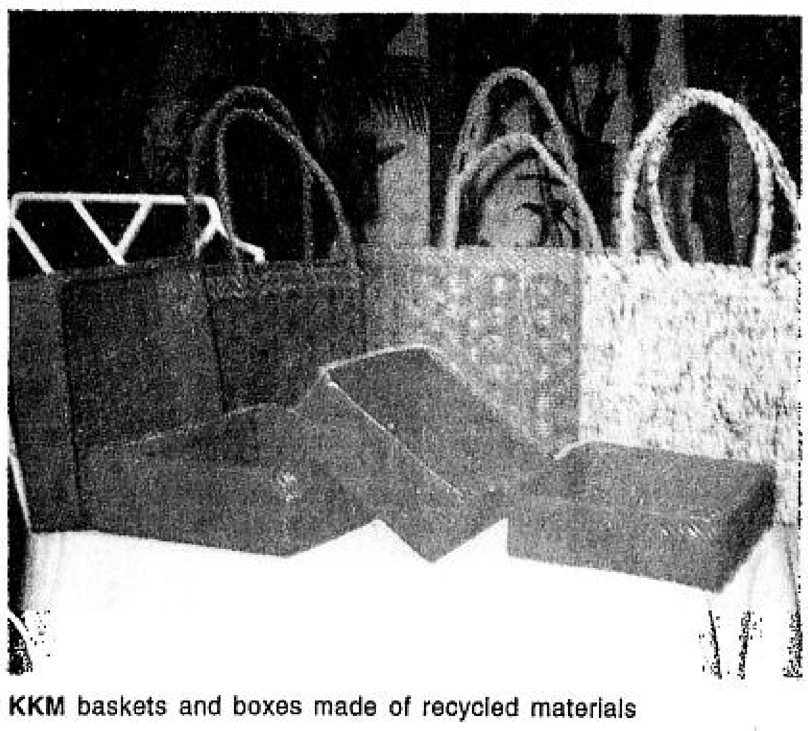
On sale are imported and local gift items, novel ideas, interesting craft, foodstuff, furniture and furnishings, jewelry, clothes, shoes and fashion accessories, among others.

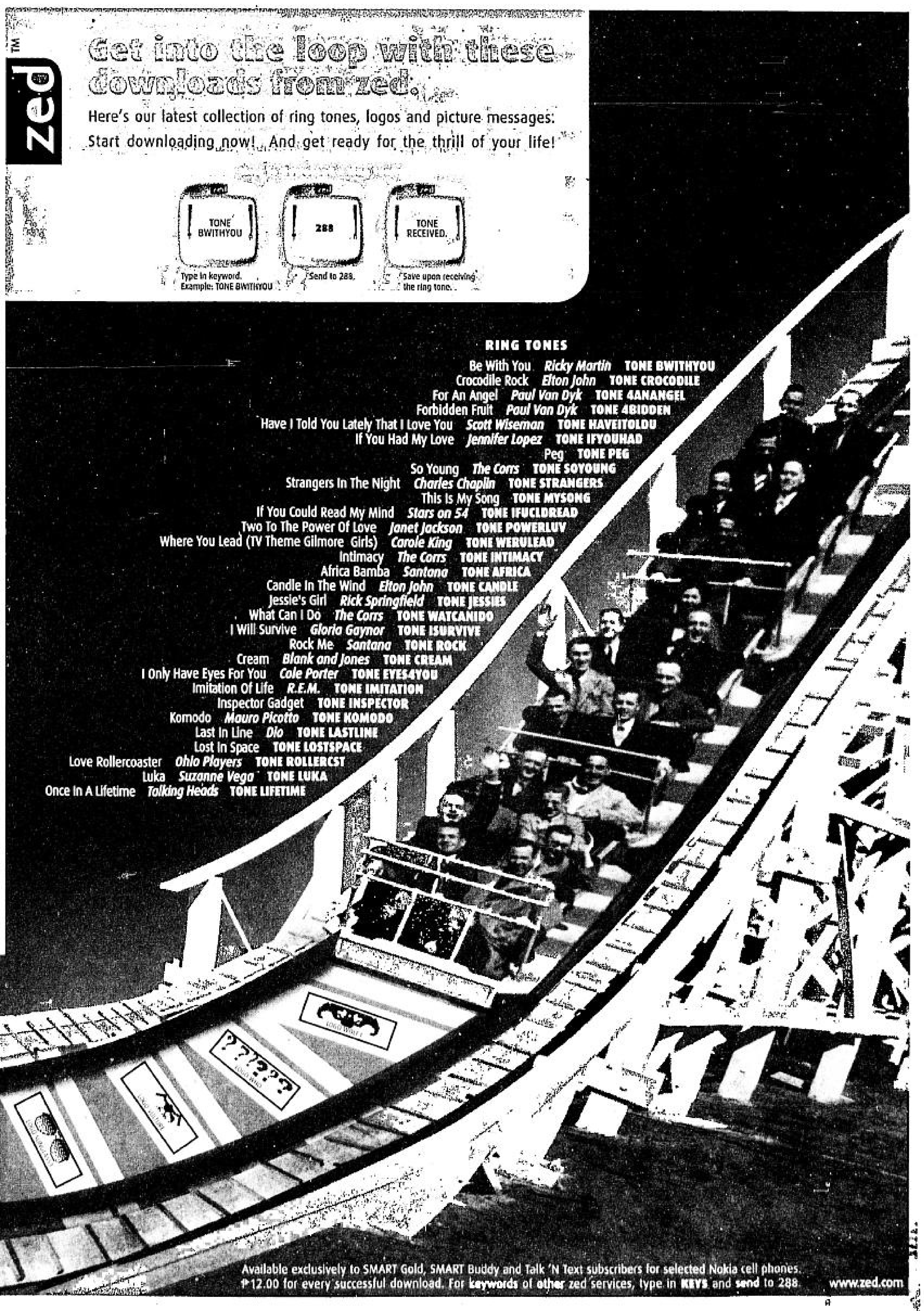
Organized by the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation in cooperation with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Exporters Confederation, all of the bazaar's proceeds will benefit the scholarship program of the Foundation for poor but deserving business students. The bazaar is co-presented by Toyota Motor Philippines and Oceanic. Raffle draws will be held every hour. Call 894-4774.

Bazaar for a cause

GLOBAL Planners Inc. has come up with "Holiday Gifts Galore," said to be the ultimate in early shopping. The bazaar will be held on Dec. 19-20, at 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the ballroom of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City. Proceeds from the bazaar will help support the projects of the Kababaihan-Kakaiba ng Mandaluyong. Items produced by members of the KKM will also be sold during the bazaar. Call 722-7065.

BACOLOD products made from *ipil* leaves and bowls and other decors made from *pandan* leaves


KKM baskets and boxes made of recycled materials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Crocodile Rock	*Elton John*	**TONE CROCODILE**
For An Angel	*Paul Van Dyk*	**TONE 4ANANGEL**
Forbidden Fruit	*Paul Van Dyk*	**TONE 4BIDDEN**
Have I Told You Lately That I Love You	*Scott Wiseman*	**TONE HAVEITOLDU**
If You Had My Love	*Jennifer Lopez*	**TONE IFYOUHAD**
Peg		**TONE PEG**
So Young	*The Corrs*	**TONE SOYOUNG**
Strangers In The Night	*Charles Chaplin*	**TONE STRANGERS**
This Is My Song		**TONE MYSONG**
If You Could Read My Mind	*Stars on 54*	**TONE IFUCLDREAD**
Two To The Power Of Love	*Janet Jackson*	**TONE POWERLUV**
Where You Lead (TV Theme Gilmore Girls)	*Carole King*	**TONE WERULEAD**
Intimacy	*The Corrs*	**TONE INTIMACY**
Africa Bamba	*Santana*	**TONE AFRICA**
Candle In The Wind	*Elton John*	**TONE CANDLE**
Jessie's Girl	*Rick Springfield*	**TONE JESSIES**
What Can I Do	*The Corrs*	**TONE WATCANIDO**
I Will Survive	*Gloria Gaynor*	**TONE ISURVIVE**
Rock Me	*Santana*	**TONE ROCK**
Cream	*Blank and Jones*	**TONE CREAM**
I Only Have Eyes For You	*Cole Porter*	**TONE EYES4YOU**
Imitation Of Life	*R.E.M.*	**TONE IMITATION**
Inspector Gadget		**TONE INSPECTOR**
Komodo	*Mauro Picotto*	**TONE KOMODO**
Last In Line	*Dio*	**TONE LASTLINE**
Lost In Space		**TONE LOSTSPACE**
Love Rollercoaster	*Ohio Players*	**TONE ROLLERCST**
Luka	*Suzanne Vega*	**TONE LUKA**
Once In A Lifetime	*Talking Heads*	**TONE LIFETIME**

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Spanish ambassador visits Cebu for the first time

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

SPANISH Ambassador **Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja** visited Cebu for the first time. He was accompanied by two gentlemen who have been here several times before: **Juan Manuel Feliz,** who heads the Manila office of the Confederacion Española de Organizaciones Empresariales, and **Javier Galvan**, director of Instituto Cervantes, an architect who once toured Cebu island's churches. On the day of their arrival, a brief ceremony was held to mark the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) covering the extension of classes in business Spanish held at its premises. CCCI president **Sabino Dapat,** who is also the honorary consul of Denmark in Cebu, was eloquent in his welcome remarks.

Maria Pilar Escaño, who handles the Spanish classes, called out the names of the students who received their certificates from Galvan and Feliz. In the first class for the year 2001 were **Maricar Tan Alivio, Aissa de la Cruz, Janette Gabutin, Edwin Perez, Eduardo Piañar, Gloria Rica Talens** and **Maria Eva Tongcos.**

In the second and more recent group: **Araceli Beltran, Esther Endoma, Josephine Deligero, Lito Fruelda, Amado Go, Carmel Godinez, Lorraine Lee, Nonito Piloto, Eugenie Tumbagahan** and **Joyce Yang**. Lawyer **Anastacio Muntuerto** received a special citation for having been the first graduate of the course, in 2000. He was at the time the president of CCCI.

A cocktail party followed the signing of the MOU. Glimpsed were **Dante Araneta** and **Cesar Barte,** who handle the CCCI office; **Boni Sia** whose Bionic Hardware imports fixtures from Spain; **Gus Palao** who heads the European Chamber in Cebu; former CCCI president **Efren Valiente**; and a group of Hispano-*parlantes* like **Teresing Mendezona, Myra Gonzalez, Chona Mercado, Margot** and **Manuel Larranaga, Harry** and **Carmen Campbell, Julina de Muertegui, Cheling** and **Susan Sala** with daughter **Carinna, Ingrid Sala Santamaria** with daughter **Cecile Nubla,** Spanish professors **Cesar Momongan** and **Socorro Escaño Laplana,** who is on leave from teaching (she and husband **Darwin** have just become parents of a pretty little girl who will be christened **Ana Luisa**).

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja, Gema Pido and Juan Manuel Feliz

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja and CCCI President Sabino Dapat shake hands after signing the MOU.

Seeing the sights

Next morning Ambassador Pantoja did the tourist sites of Cebu City—the 19th-century house Casa Gorordo, the Basilica del Santo Niño, Magellan's Cross and Fort San Pedro. **Jaime Romero Salas** joined the merry group for lunch at Va Bene, making it merrier with his jokes and anecdotes stretching well into the afternoon, until it was siesta time. The Spanish VIPs retired to the Cebu Plaza Hotel where they were billeted. The evening provided more fun.

The Casino Español de Cebu was holding its grand annual ball to mark Dia de la Hispanidad, and Ambassador Pantoja was the guest of honor. A thick red carpet covered the regal staircase. The casino's officials stood at the landing to meet the guests. "*Bienvenidos,*" greeted president **Jess Cuenco** with his pretty wife **Teresa Garcia Cuenco** beside him.

Other members of the welcoming group were vice president **Ed Misa** with his wife **Helen Franco Misa**, secretary **Edgar** and **Marna Gica**, treasurer **Angelito Veloso**, house chair **Jose Mari Miranda**, cultural activities director **Manoling Sainz** and wife **Melba**, structures director **Manuel Guanzon** and wife **Afriquita**. Manuel has a big job to do in the coming months as the present building will be demolished and a new stunning edifice will be erected.

JAVIER Galvan, director of Instituto Cervantes

Milagring Sembrano, who lives in the mansion across the casino, was celebrating her birthday that evening with a large group of friends. Her cook had prepared bagfuls of those special peanuts roasted in butter, honey and some other secret ingredients. She sent Ambassador Pantoja a bag. He crossed the ballrooms to greet the celebrator, kiss her hand, and wish her many more.

The ball officially started after the toasts, with the orchestra played a lilting waltz. This was followed by a fiery *paso doble* and then every number in the ballroom dancing music book, with occasional disco tunes and slow pieces requested by the romantics. Dinner was served at the Cervantes Hall, but the dancing did not stop.

Excellent spread

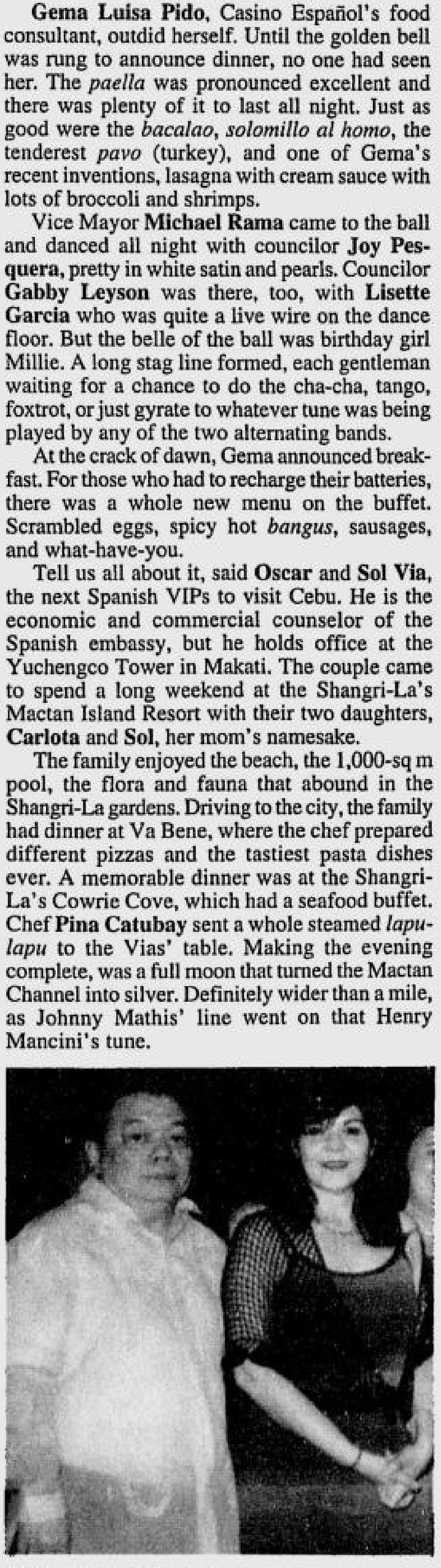
Gema Luisa Pido, Casino Español's food consultant, outdid herself. Until the golden bell was rung to announce dinner, no one had seen her. The *paella* was pronounced excellent and there was plenty of it to last all night. Just as good were the *bacalao, solomillo al homo*, the tenderest *pavo* (turkey), and one of Gema's recent inventions, lasagna with cream sauce with lots of broccoli and shrimps.

Vice Mayor **Michael Rama** came to the ball and danced all night with councilor **Joy Pesquera,** pretty in white satin and pearls. Councilor **Gabby Leyson** was there, too, with **Lisette Garcia** who was quite a live wire on the dance floor. But the belle of the ball was birthday girl Millie. A long stag line formed, each gentleman waiting for a chance to do the cha-cha, tango, foxtrot, or just gyrate to whatever tune was being played by any of the two alternating bands.

At the crack of dawn, Gema announced breakfast. For those who had to recharge their batteries, there was a whole new menu on the buffet. Scrambled eggs, spicy hot *bangus*, sausages, and what-have-you.

Tell us all about it, said **Oscar** and **Sol Via**, the next Spanish VIPs to visit Cebu. He is the economic and commercial counselor of the Spanish embassy, but he holds office at the Yuchengco Tower in Makati. The couple came to spend a long weekend at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort with their two daughters, **Carlota** and **Sol**, her mom's namesake.

The family enjoyed the beach, the 1,000-sq m pool, the flora and fauna that abound in the Shangri-La gardens. Driving to the city, the family had dinner at Va Bene, where the chef prepared different pizzas and the tastiest pasta dishes ever. A memorable dinner was at the Shangri-La's Cowrie Cove, which had a seafood buffet. Chef **Pina Catubay** sent a whole steamed *lapu-lapu* to the Vias' table. Making the evening complete, was a full moon that turned the Mactan Channel into silver. Definitely wider than a mile, as Johnny Mathis' line went on that Henry Mancini's tune.



JESS and Tess Cuenco

WALA KANG LABAN KUNG WALA KANG ALAM SA KALABAN.

Iba na ang dumi at germs sa mundo. Iba na ring panganib ang dala nila sa mundo mo. Para sa kaligtasan ng iyong pamilya, kilalanin ang bawat isa.

E-COLI
Ang Escherichia coli o E-coli ay isang uri ng bacteria na karaniwang nakukuha sa raw meat.
Kapag karne ay infected, lahat ng mga surfaces na mapaglagyan o mga bagay na madikitan nito ay masasalinan din ng E-coli: kutsilyo, cutting board, kitchen tiles, plato, lababo, etc.
Ang E-coli ay maaaring maging sanhi ng pagsusuka, sakit ng tiyan at diarrhea. Para maiwasan ang pagkakasakit, ugaliing linisin ang mga kitchen surfaces gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.

FUNGI
Ito ay matatagpuan sa mga damp areas gaya ng banyo at maaaring pagmulan ng pangangati, pagbahing at pag-ubo.
Para siguradong tanggal ang mapanganib na fungi, gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.

SALMONELLA
Salmonella Enteritidis. Isang uri ng bacteria na makukuha sa hilaw na poultry.
Ang taong infected ay karaniwang nilalagnat, sumasakit ang tiyan at sinusumpong ng diarrhea sa loob ng 12 to 72 hours matapos ang pagkain ng pagkaing may Salmonella.
Para maiwasan, panatilihin sa refrigerator ang mga hilaw na pagkain. Dapat ding linisin ang mga lugar na pinaghandaan at pinaglutuan ng pagkain gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.

HEPATITIS A VIRUS
Ito ay virus na nagmumula sa maruruming pagkain, tubig at mga stagnant water. Maari rin itong maipasa sa iba ng taong maysakit na. Ito ang leading cause ng Acute Hepatitis na nakakapagdulot ng liver damage.
Siguraduhing malinis ang kusina at iba pang lugar sa bahay na pinaglalagyan ng pagkain. Gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.

Sa mas mabagsik na dumi at germs, ito na dapat ang panlaban mo!
Bagong DOMEX Thick
Naiiba dahil Thick! Kaya kahit duming nanikit na, natatanggal pa. Pati all-known germs na kasama, napapatay pa.
Walang dumi. Walang germs. Walang duda.

Long-hair music calms a motorist's rage

BY DIANA UICHANCO

DO you have any idea what classical music can do to a traffic-weary spirit caught in a bottleneck? I do.

For some 10 years, I have been plying the streets of Metro Manila day after day with Manila's daredevil jeepney drivers, Makati's one-way streets and exorbitant parking fees, Edsa's ubiquitous smoke-belchers, pedestrians who never bother to check the traffic lights, or buses and taxis that never stay on their lanes. The aggravation caused by an intersection with a busted stoplight is something I have grown used to.

But the strain from years of daily driving—sometimes covering three or even four cities—seemed to have escalated over the past year that I have come to feel like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, with the transformation taking place every time I get behind the wheel.

My brows knit with every screeching jeepney or tricycle that turn without warning. My knuckles become white from gripping the wheel so hard. I shake my head in exasperation occasionally muttering something like, "*Kaya di na umasenso ang Pilipinas dahil sa mga taong katulad niyo*..." Who wouldn't be disgusted after nearly running over a black-clad person who suddenly darts across Edsa at night?

I have come to experience human emotions to the extreme merely from my daily encounter with the city's motorists and pedestrians. Reactions have ranged from mere annoyance over drivers who go against the traffic flow and, thus, worsen traffic jams, to full-blown fury when some motorists think they're on the Formula One racetrack as they zoom through crowded roads.

I realized that I had to do something about my Jekyll-and-Hyde persona on the road. It was either take the MRT or the taxi every day or somehow ignore the reckless drivers while driving defensively, not letting them get on my nerves.

Alien concept

Actually, driving should be a pleasant experience—even a relaxing one—but such is not the case in Manila where people are either ignorant or defiant of traffic rules, and road courtesy is a pretty alien concept. The result: stress, stress and more stress!

In October, I decided to embark on a quasi-experiment involving some great, long-dead composers. Until then, my eardrums were used only to a daily play list of pop, rock, alternative and a little jazz. Sometimes, a bit of New Wave and hip-hop is thrown in for variety. Although the commonly held view is that listening to the type of music you like relaxes you most, I found out this was not always true.

If alternative rock is at the top of your list and that's what you normally listen to when on the road, you will have to ask yourself: does it help you focus when you're driving or make your mind wander? Does it enhance your alertness? Does it put you in a pleasant mood, or make you feel like the next rebel without a cause? Does it help you remain calm despite annoying distractions, or somehow give you a gangster's boldness? In other words, does it put you in the mood and mindset for safe and efficient driving?

Well, I was sure about one thing. Singing lyrics like "Go on, go on, c'mon leave me breathless, tempt me, tease me, till I can't deny this lovin' feelin'..." over and over with its catchy, upbeat rhythm, can make a girl behind the wheel (not to mention, her foot on the gas pedal) a tad more aggressive—and often she's not even aware of it.

Eminem is not the one

Another thing I realized: listening repeatedly to Eminem's anger does not encourage patience and generosity when I have to give way or when I come upon slowpokes on the road.

So one day, I decided that I needed a change of music while on the road to soothe my frazzled nerves. "Gregorian chants would be nice to listen to," I told myself. "It would feel like I'm in a monastery. All that peace and tranquility..." The mere thought made me feel calmer. Church music has always been a welcome refuge for me—not the modernized, guitar-accompanied or electronic-keyboard-with-drums versions of hymns that most churches have adopted, but songs with traditional pipe organ music, or performed à cappella by sonorous baritones.

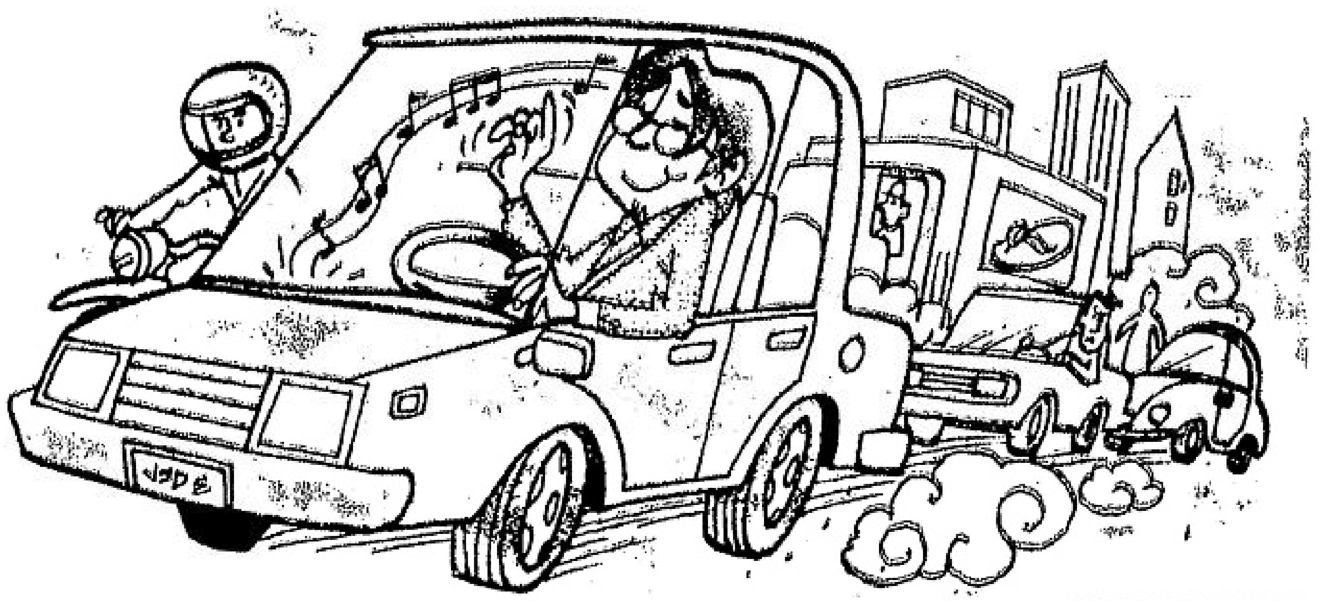


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Religious songs in English or Filipino are fine, but Latin verses are the ones that truly affect me. They represent to me the eternal solidity of the Church. So imagine my disappointment when sales people in music shops could only show me the same CD titled Gregorian Chants, consisting of '90s songs "gregorianized" for an ancient, enigmatic feel. I feared that one of the tracks, "Losing My Religion," would send me further into an agitated state if I listened to it constantly from behind the wheel.

Calm and serenity have become familiar again, and driving has become less draining

"Okay, forget the Gregorian chants," I decided as I entered another record store. Wandering into the classical music section, I spotted "Classical Music for People Who Hate Classical Music." The titles seemed like a jumble of words and numbers ("... in G Major," "Symphony No. 5" and the like), with some familiar phrases like "Blue Danube" and "William Tell." I was confident, however, that the music would be recognizable once I played it. Even the most unrefined ears would surely find something familiar in a compilation of classical pieces made especially for those who couldn't stand this kind of music!

Breath of fresh air

When I played it on the tester, I hummed along to some pieces and was delighted by the violins, cellos and cymbals. It was like a breath of fresh air compared to pounding beats, electric guitars and angry or lusty lyrics of songs that had dominated the airwaves since grunge and hip-hop entered the mainstream and R&B enjoyed resurgence in the '90s.

The flow of strings, keys and percussion seemed to carry excitement, anguish, enchantment—the entire breadth of human experience. Putting down the headphones, I heard J. Lo over the store's speakers. Somehow, "My Love Don't Cost A Thing" (which I like) seemed like a form of air noise pollution after Mozart and Vivaldi's masterpieces.

I drove home basking in the melodious turns of the classics. Indeed, from the moment the first strains of Pachelbel's "Canon in D Major" (the only piece with a chord in the title that I am able to remember) filled the car, it was like being up on a cloud. Listening to the music really made the trip a pleasant one although I was on Edsa at around 7 p.m. on a weekday, which meant the self-proclaimed kings of the road were in action.

Sure, I saw buses swerving dangerously and motorist after motorist changing lanes without making the necessary signals, but I didn't seem to mind. And even though the "William Tell Overture" played, which would have provided the perfect backdrop, I maintained my speed and challenged none of the maniacal drivers to a race.

It's been nearly a month since that day at the music store, and I've let my eardrums have their fill of those centuries-old masterpieces. As a sort of experiment, nothing but the classics streamed from my car stereo for seven days straight just to see if music could be the antidote to my Jekyll-and-Hyde tendencies. Guess what? It worked.

Of course, I still think jaywalkers (and those who go over metal railings) make our quest for discipline as a nation more difficult. Also, several times I've had to ask my guardian angel for help in keeping me from mouthing invectives at motorists who seem ignorant of the concept of "right of way." But calm and serenity have become familiar again, and driving has become less draining.

Reality remains

Though classical music in the background puts a lot of peace and pleasure into driving, it is much like looking at the world through rose-tinted glasses. I realized this on the way home one Friday as "Blue Danube" played in my car stereo.

While I delighted in the beauty of the music, imagining a grand ball at some Bavarian castle, a stinky smell jolted me back to reality. I was passing Nepa Q-Mart, the wet market along Edsa at the foot of the Kamias flyover, with the familiar stench of heaps of garbage strewn all over the sidewalk. The image of a prince and his enchanting princess was marred as the odor persisted despite fully rolled-up car windows.

"I'm listening to the 'Blue Danube' and I smell garbage," I thought, and laughed out loud. Just goes to show that not even the great composers can alter reality. It can only affect one's perception and attitudes, plus, in my case, emotional well-being amid a monstrous traffic situation.

The likes of "Dance of the Sugarplum Fairies" and "Sonatina" accompany me on the road about 80 percent of the time. Once in a while, I still throw dagger looks at tricycle drivers who make sudden, unpredictable turns. I occasionally still get exasperated when a motorist straddles two lanes seemingly undecided which lane to take. Though music hasn't eliminated road rage, it sure has made calmness a familiar feeling again.

Group holds art contest to mark anniversary

AN ART contest on the theme, "Babae sa Mata ng Diyos," will be one of the highlights of the 9th anniversary of the Samaritana Transformation Ministries Inc.

The nonprofit, nondenominational Christian organization is committed to sharing and living out the Gospel among Filipino women involved in prostitution by training and preparing for eventual reintegration into the mainstream of society. It will mark its 9th anniversary Nov. 25.

Winners in the art contest, which aims to raise awareness on the dignity of Filipino women involved in prostitution, will get cash prizes and trophies.

Entries should be in two-dimensional ground and in various media and styles, including oil paint, acrylic, watercolor, oil pastel, soft pastel, mixed media and collage on any paper, board or canvas. Entries should be submitted to Samaritana Transformation Ministries Inc., 11-B Kent St., East Fairview, QC. Deadline for submission of entries is Nov. 15. Call 431-5771 and 938-1617 or e-mail samarita@pacific.net.ph.

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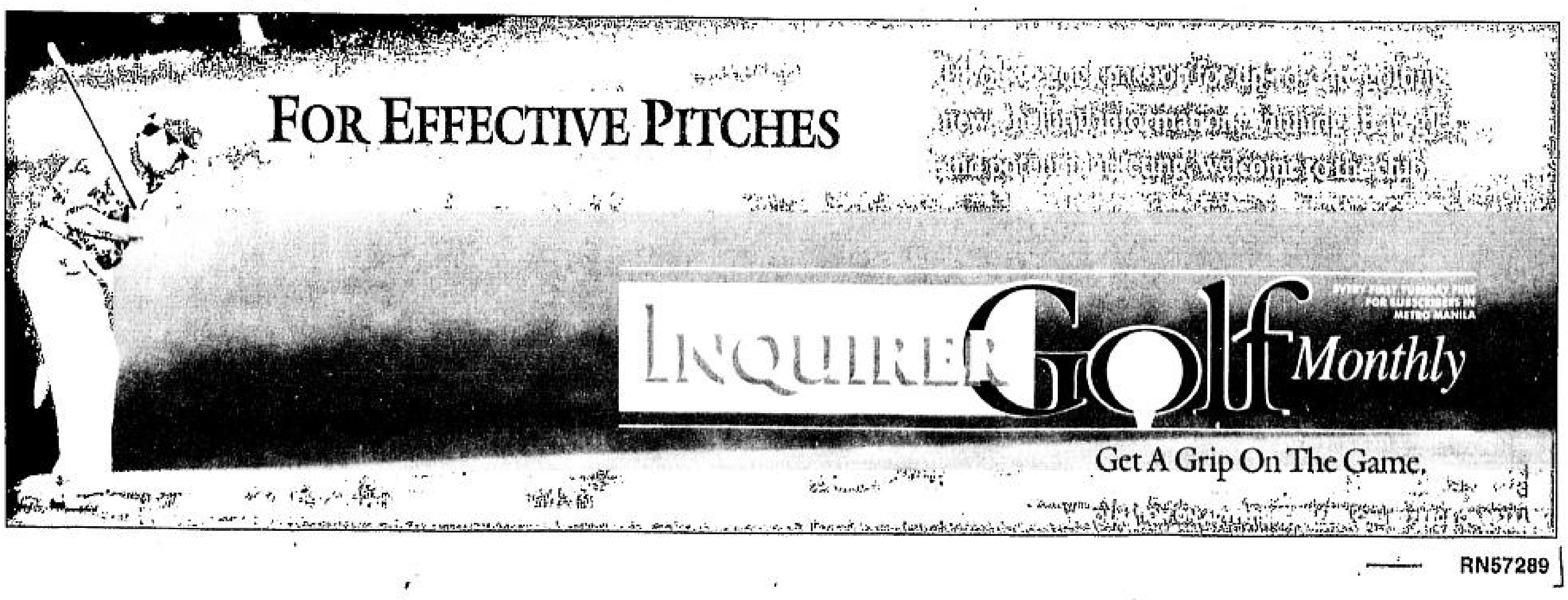
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A gift you can give yourself

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-HAVE accessory—Louis Vuitton charm bracelet. This must be one of the best gifts that one can receive or give one's self this Christmas, given the times. The first time I saw the ad featuring Kate Moss, I thought it was beautiful! It is available at the Louis Vuitton boutique, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati.

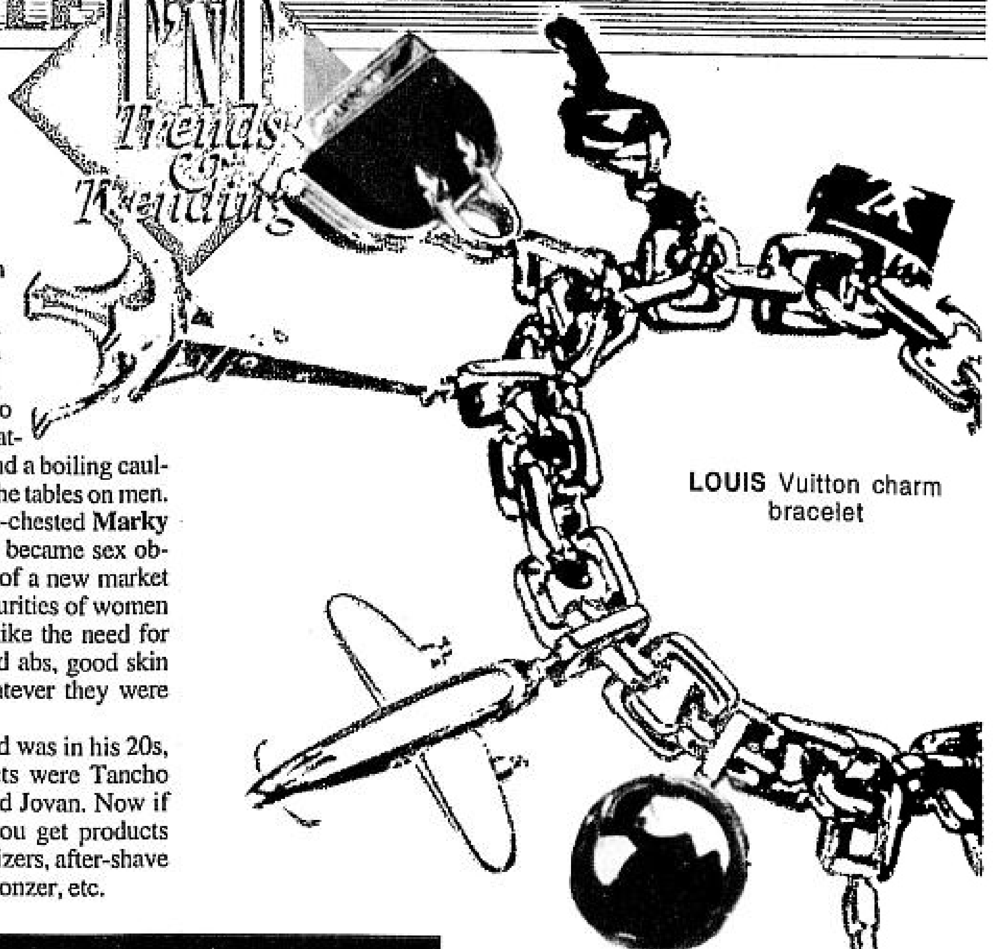
It's a round-the-world charm bracelet and, according to designer **Marc Jacobs**, "it evokes the memory of the moment, of travel and romance." The trinket is in 18k white and yellow gold and the charms (sold separately) have precious and semiprecious stones. Charms consist of a champagne bottle, an airplane, keys, the Eiffel Tower, a Citroen 2CV (with yellow sapphire headlights), Vuitton handbags and luggage.

The cost? A whopping $25,000 broken down as follows: $5,000, $1,400 for the Citroen car, $3,000 for the LV steamer trunk.

Like I said, it's not for everyone but if you get one for Christmas, make sure you be nice to that generous Santa Claus!

Vanity fair. There was a time when only women took longer getting ready and doing their best to look good through such beauty rituals as plucking the eyebrow, face peels, hair dyes and plastic surgery. In the 21st century, however, men now equal women in the vanity department. It is now important for them to look good as well.

In our society, presentation and first impressions set the stage for just about everything. We do not need to give business cards because our face and persona have become our "calling card." Things are now about appearance and feeling good. Men have learned that they have to eliminate their beer gut, pluck their brows, trim their nose hair, whiten their teeth and throw out the jarman-like shoes. In other words, they need a makeover. A reminder, though, when you have a manicure and pedicure (also accepted male things these days), skip the Merthiolate around the nail. It's disgusting!



LOUIS Vuitton charm bracelet

No one knows why straight men now feel the need to look good. Gay men did not have a problem in that department. Here are some theories: 1. Some women are tired of being the only ones who had to be waxed, permed, suctioned and tattooed, that they got together around a boiling cauldron to create some spells to turn the tables on men. 2. Calvin Klein introduced a bare-chested **Marky Mark** in Times Square and men became sex objects, too. 3. Advertisers in need of a new market and tired of focusing on the insecurities of women focused on men's inadequacies like the need for hair, bigger chest, well-developed abs, good skin and teeth. And men bought whatever they were selling.

Think about it. When your dad was in his 20s, all he had for grooming products were Tancho Tick, Vitalis, Brut, Old Spice and Jovan. Now if you go to the men's counter, you get products from Clinique to Aramis, moisturizers, after-shave and post-shave balm, lip balm, bronzer, etc.

According to AC Nielsen, men spent close to $130 million on hair dye products in 1999. And eight out of 10 guys admit that they are not happy with their appearance and would like to change it. This is reflected in the soaring numbers of men seeking plastic surgery and liposuction. Sales in men's grooming products and fashion have increased more than 50 percent every year.

So this vanity thing is here to stay and probably a welcome development. The macho thing is so '80s. The 21st-century man is secure about his looks and person and does not mind if he needs a hair weave, rhinoplasty, liposuction, wax, etc. As long as they don't start wearing makeup I think they are on the right path.

New Beginnings and his heart's song. Martin Nievera must be the busiest superstar singer in the industry. He just finished a three-month run at Onstage, which I caught and enjoyed immensely. His wit and voice are incomparable! Whenever I attempt to do karaoke singing, Martin is the only Pinoy singer I try to sound like (like a million others, I am sure). On Nov. 20, he returns to Onstage for a fund-raising show for New Beginnings Foundation (a rehabilitation and treatment center for drug and alcohol addiction). In the concert, he will have **Cris Villonco**, 12-year-old **Alex Godinez** and no less than (my favorite lady singer) **Lani Misalucha** as guests. This will be a must-go-to show. For ticket inquiries, call Ticketworld at 891-5610 or New Beginnings at 772-2122.

Not one to sit on his laurels, Martin met yesterday with President **GMA** to discuss a song he wrote—music by **Louie Ocampo**—titled "My Heart's Song." The song is about hope and inspiration for the heroes and the families and friends left behind in the Sept. 11 tragedy in the US. The President will give the CD to New York City Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** when she goes to the US. It's a gift from the Philippines to New York City and the world. It's the perfect gift we can give to the US in the light of the recent tragedy, a message of peace and hope.

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo vda. de Pendelton: "It's her or me." This week, Constance battles her ultimate enemy—mistresses!

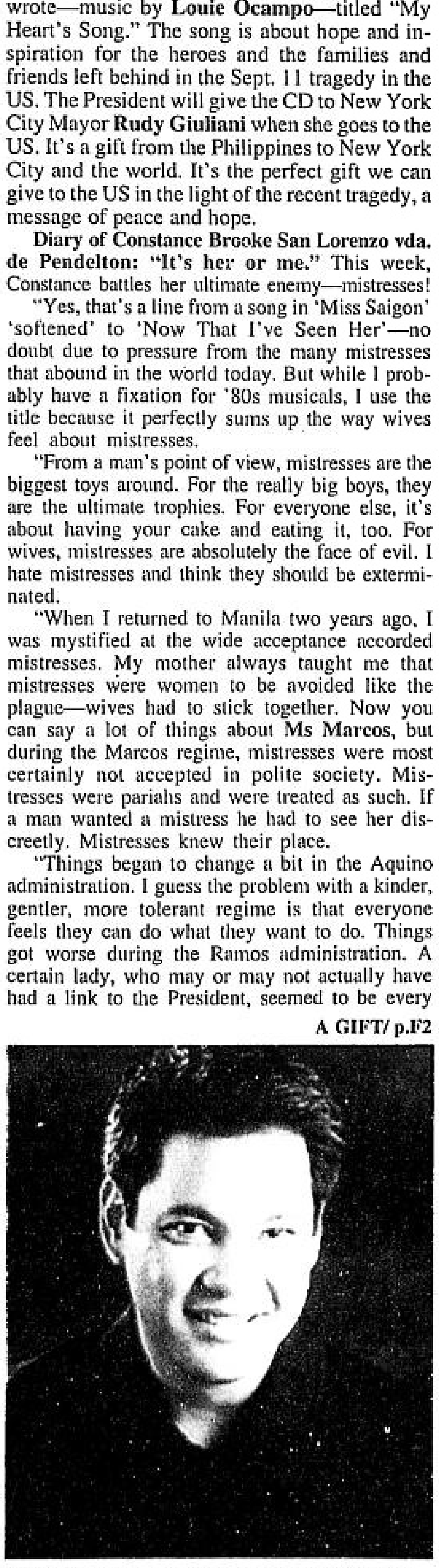
"Yes, that's a line from a song in 'Miss Saigon' 'softened' to 'Now That I've Seen Her'—no doubt due to pressure from the many mistresses that abound in the world today. But while I probably have a fixation for '80s musicals, I use the title because it perfectly sums up the way wives feel about mistresses.

"From a man's point of view, mistresses are the biggest toys around. For the really big boys, they are the ultimate trophies. For everyone else, it's about having your cake and eating it, too. For wives, mistresses are absolutely the face of evil. I hate mistresses and think they should be exterminated.

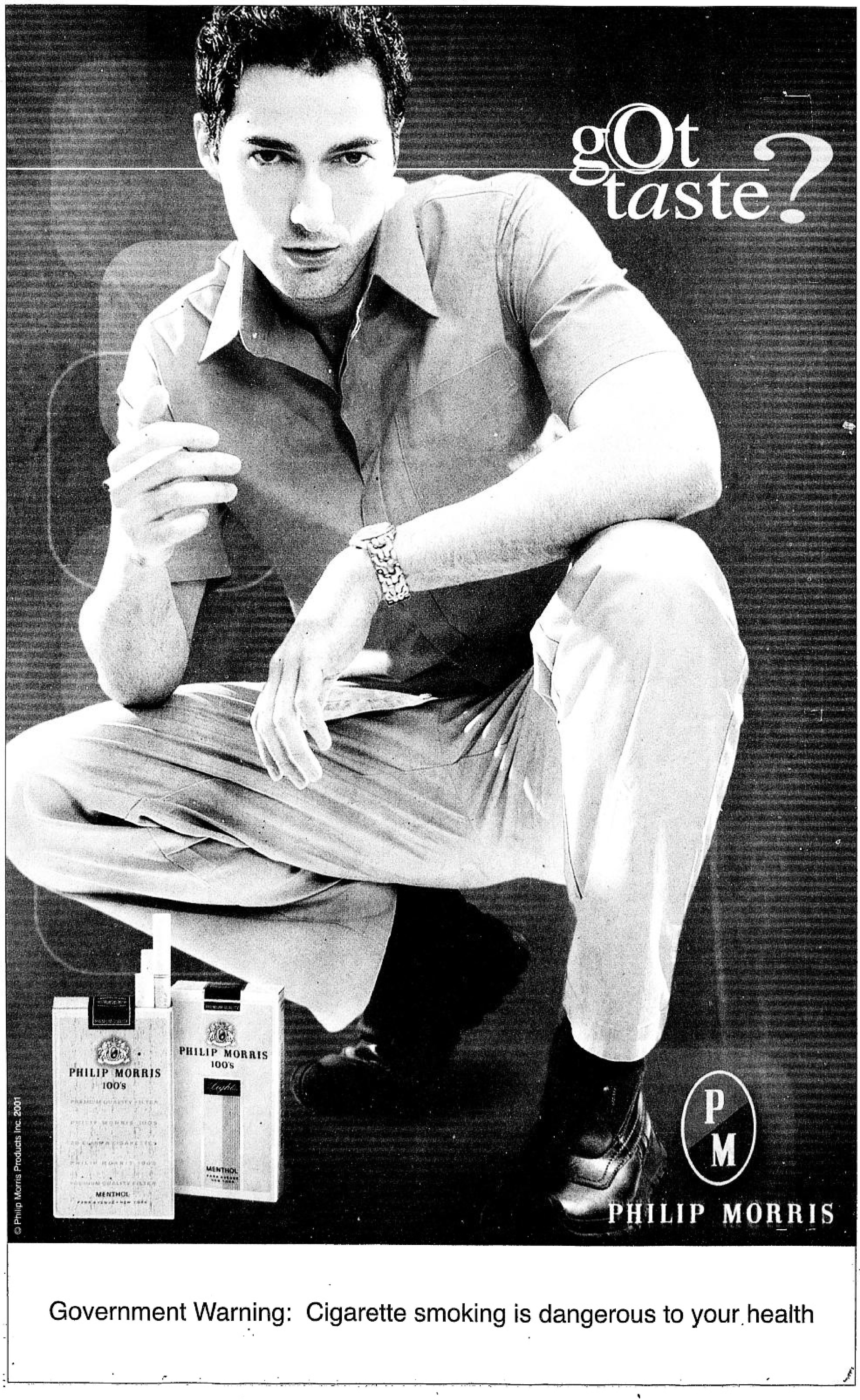
"When I returned to Manila two years ago, I was mystified at the wide acceptance accorded mistresses. My mother always taught me that mistresses were women to be avoided like the plague—wives had to stick together. Now you can say a lot of things about **Ms Marcos**, but during the Marcos regime, mistresses were most certainly not accepted in polite society. Mistresses were pariahs and were treated as such. If a man wanted a mistress he had to see her discreetly. Mistresses knew their place.

"Things began to change a bit in the Aquino administration. I guess the problem with a kinder, gentler, more tolerant regime is that everyone feels they can do what they want to do. Things got worse during the Ramos administration. A certain lady, who may or may not actually have had a link to the President, seemed to be every

A GIFT/ p.F2



CONCERT king Martin Nievera will perform in a fund-raiser for New Beginnings Foundation.



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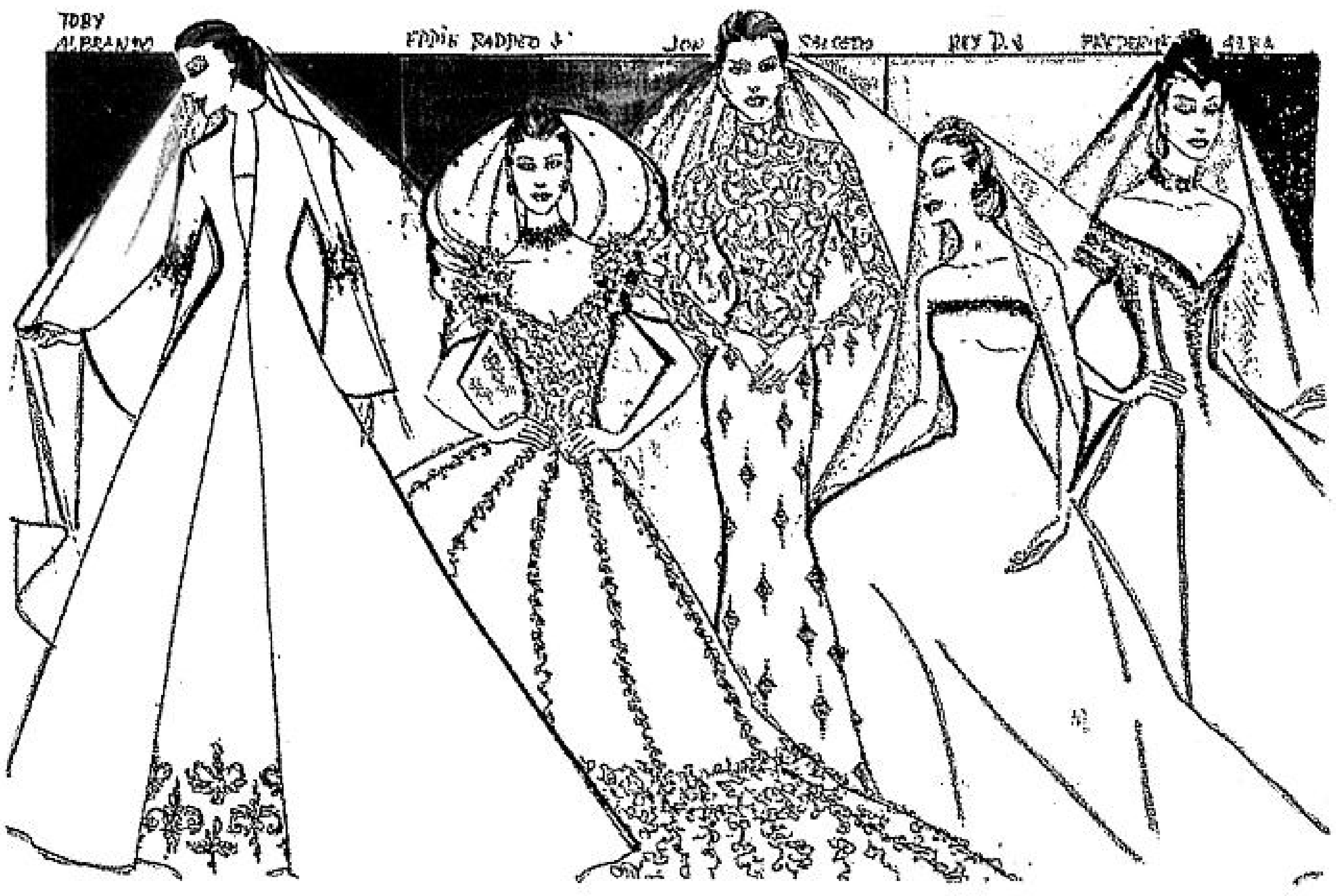

QUEZON City Councilors Wilma Amoranto-Sarino (left) and Annie Susano with fashion designers (from left) Rollie Graza, Eddie Baddeo, Jon Salcedo, stylist and event consultant Zardo Austria, Lloyd Arceo, Rex D., Rudy Fuentes and Toby Albrando

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Show presents 2002 bridal forecast

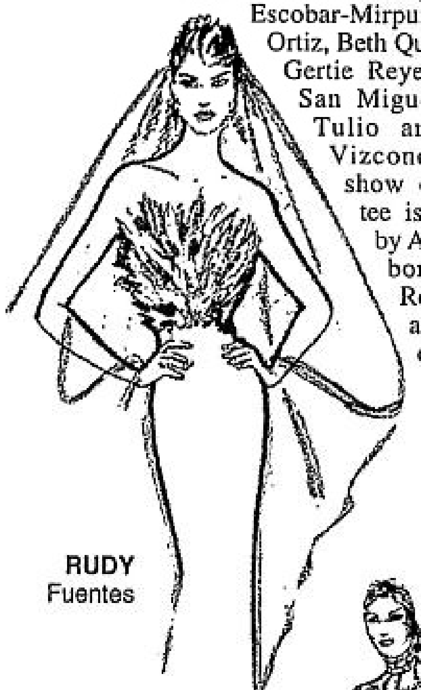
QUEZON CITY's top and brightest fashion designers will present the haute couture look for year 2002 at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on Nov. 28.

"Año...Anyô 2002" is a dinner dance cum fashion show featuring the works of designers Rudy Fuentes, Eddie Baddeo, Eric Pineda, Toby Albrando, Jon Salcedo, Rex D., Francis Calaquian, Edwin Uy, Rollie Graza, Lloyd Arceo and Frederick Alba. The show's finale will feature 11 stunning brides.

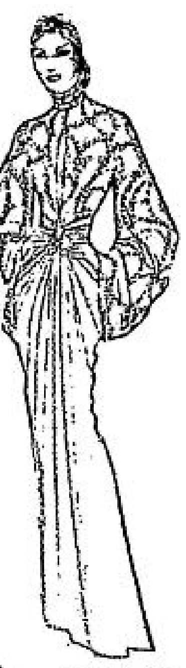
Raymond Villanueva will direct the show while writer/stylist Zardo Austria is event consultant. Glenn Lopez does special fashion illustrations.

The show aims to raise funds for the High Hopes Foundation of Councilor Wilma Amoranto-Sarino, which assists needy families of the first district of Quezon City through livelihood projects, medical and dental programs, scholarship grants, regular feeding of malnourished children and spiritual outreach programs.

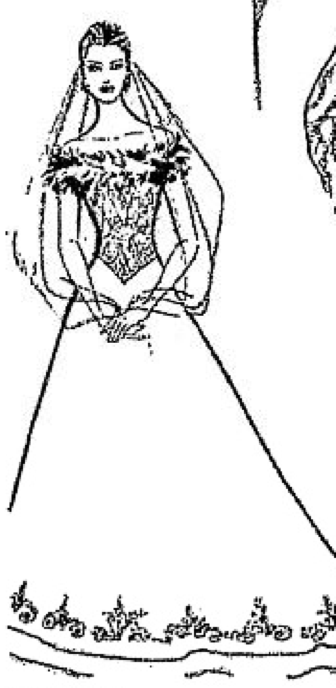
Other members of the High Hopes Ladies Committee are Mabel Abano, Mellie Ablaza, Luchie Arguelles, Puri Bartolata, Nonie Basilio, Myrna Boots Bautista, Vicky Cadungog, Tess Castro, Florence Defensor, Rebecca Gomez de Liano, Janet Flora Garcia, Myrna Garrido, Marietta Holmgren, Sally Maliwanag, Lolita Escobar-Mirpuri, Baby Ortiz, Beth Quismorio, Gertie Reyes, Bong San Miguel, Leni Tulio and Chit Vizconde. The show committee is chaired by Aida Simborio with Rosa King as vice chair.



RUDY Fuentes



FRANCIS Calaquian



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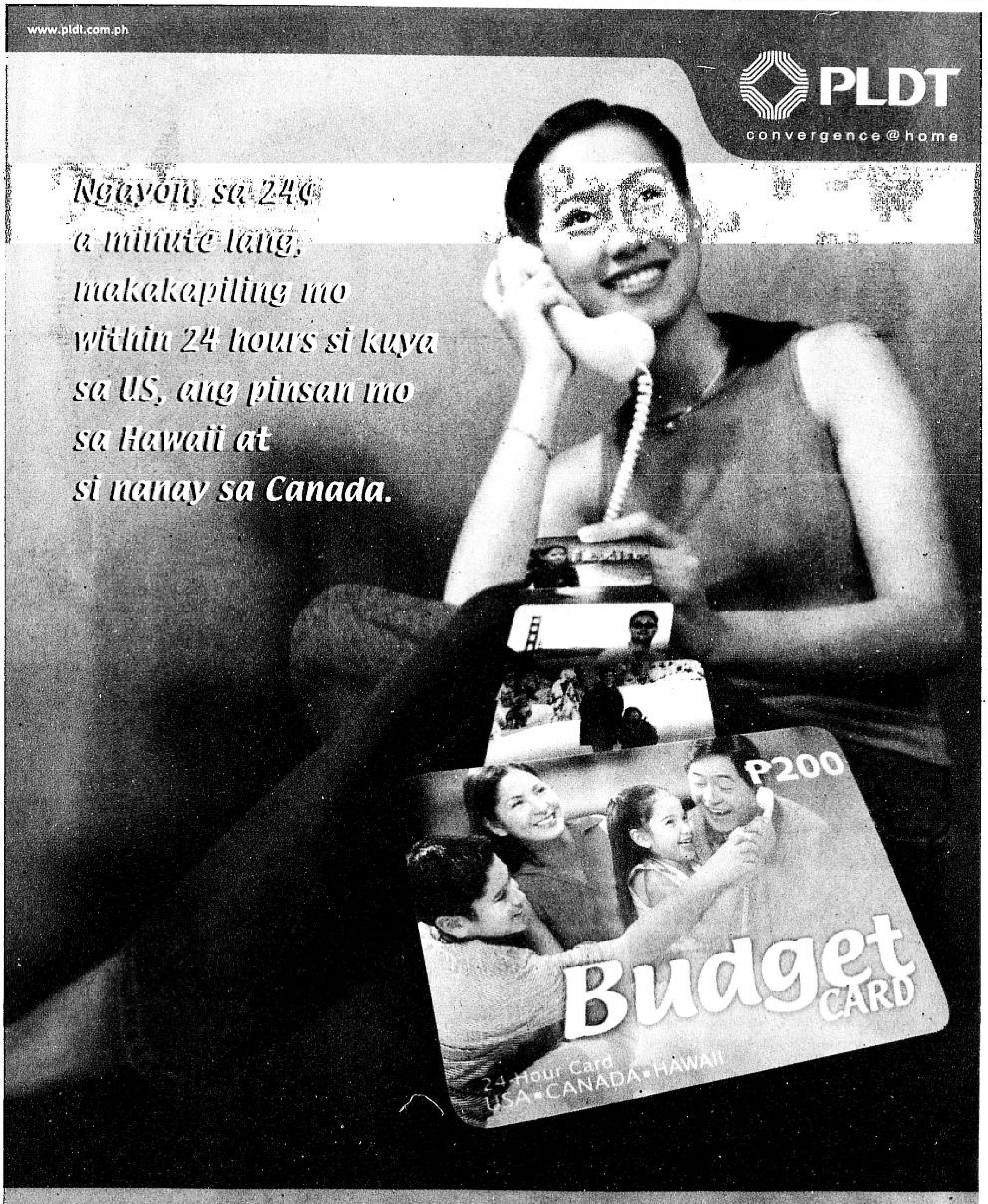

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ITO ANG TAWAG NA PASOK SA BUDGET MO.

She always gets into love triangles

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I have always listened to your program, but I never thought I'd write to you one day. I'm sure you've encountered stories about love triangles but it would really mean a whole lot to me if you feature my story.

Several years back I met Jaymee. My friend Marla invited me to a dance party without telling me that her boyfriend Stephen was coming with us. Not knowing who we were going to be with, I immediately said yes. At the time I was going steady with Ricky, but I did not tell him about the party because I wanted to be alone. I felt Ricky was doing something behind my back.

Marla's cousins were kind enough to dance with me, but I still felt left out. I sat down for a while when suddenly a guy in a baseball jersey and jeans asked me to dance. Boy! Was he great! His name was Jaymee and we instantly connected. He took me home after the party and it was like we'd known each other for a long time. We were already holding hands. Jaymee was very compassionate, very expressive, very gentle. I felt a certain spark that night after the party. Ricky never made me feel that way.

I tried to convince myself that what happened between Jaymee and I that night was a spur-of-the-moment kind of thing. I even thought of using Jaymee so I could see Ricky, whom my parents never really liked. Jaymee started calling me, but I found out he was committed to someone else. I thought everything would stop, but Jaymee kept denying his relationship with the other girl although his friends told me differently.

Jaymee and I had no serious commitment because it was just not possible. I knew he loved his girlfriend more than he loved me although he said otherwise. After thinking about it for while, I decided to let him go. He said he would respect my decision even if he did not agree with it.

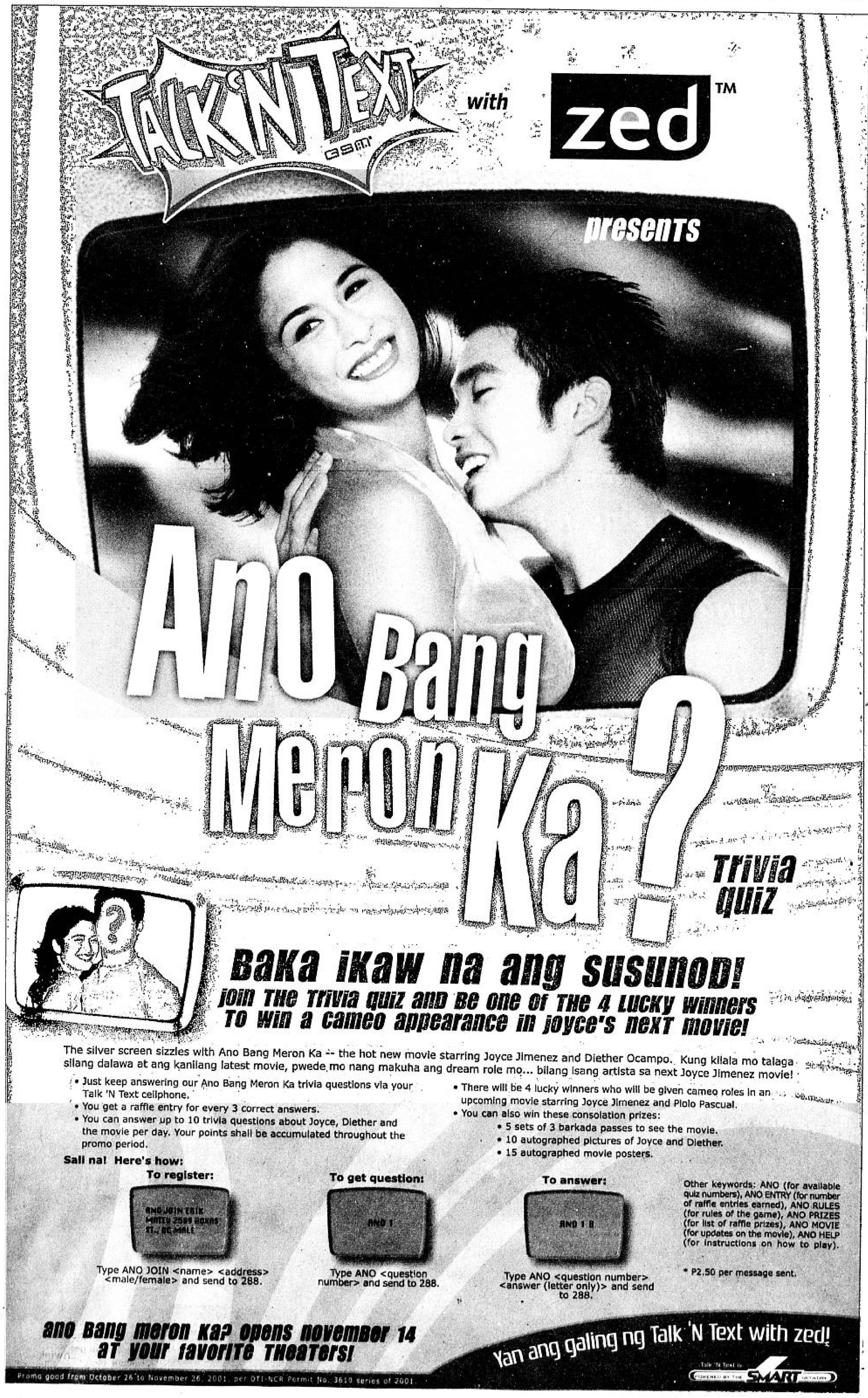
I cried when he started singing, "You're feeling kinda lonely, girl, would you like someone new to talk to?" "Sharing the Night Together" was our first favorite song. When he saw the tears in my eyes, he stopped and said, "I will always love you."

The way we ended things was very dramatic. I never thought loving someone could be so complicated. Falling in love with the wrong person could only bring so much pain. I still miss him. I smile every time I hear the song "Sharing the Night Together" because it always reminds me of him. I will always love him. How do I pick up the broken pieces of my heart?

BROOKES

It seems that you are prone to getting into emotional triangles. First your boyfriend Ricky and then Jaymee. You very well know that they both have other girls but you still got involved with them, well, maybe not for long, but certainly long enough to cause you pain and disappointment. A lot of people say "always" when they say "I love you" to someone. They sound so sure that what they have will last for eternity. Most of those who thought their feelings would not change often wake up in disbelief that what they thought would last forever was already gone.

I honestly believe that you deserve someone better than Ricky or Jaymee. Someone who believes that happiness is looking after the needs of the people close to his heart. Someone who values the feelings of others. I'm glad you finally decided to get out of Ricky and Jaymee's vicious game of love. It's a fresh new start and I hope that you won't fall into the same trap again. Be a little more careful in getting involved with any man so that you won't have to disentangle yourself again from a web of passionate and crippling emotions.



Baka ikaw na ang susunod!
join the Trivia quiz and be one of the 4 lucky winners to win a cameo appearance in joyce's next movie!

The silver screen sizzles with Ano Bang Meron Ka -- the hot new movie starring Joyce Jimenez and Diether Ocampo. Kung kilala mo talaga silang dalawa at ang kanilang latest movie, pwede mo nang makuha ang dream role mo... bilang isang artista sa next Joyce Jimenez movie!

- Just keep answering our Ano Bang Meron Ka trivia questions via your Talk 'N Text cellphone.
- You get a raffle entry for every 3 correct answers.
- You can answer up to 10 trivia questions about Joyce, Diether and the movie per day. Your points shall be accumulated throughout the promo period.
- There will be 4 lucky winners who will be given cameo roles in an upcoming movie starring Joyce Jimenez and Piolo Pascual.
- You can also win these consolation prizes:
  - 5 sets of 3 barkada passes to see the movie.
  - 10 autographed pictures of Joyce and Diether.
  - 15 autographed movie posters.

Sali na! Here's how:

To register:

Type ANO JOIN <name> <address> <male/female> and send to 288.

To get question:

Type ANO <question number> and send to 288.

To answer:

Type ANO <question number> <answer (letter only)> and send to 288.

Other keywords: ANO (for available quiz numbers), ANO ENTRY (for number of raffle entries earned), ANO RULES (for rules of the game), ANO PRIZES (for list of raffle prizes), ANO MOVIE (for updates on the movie), ANO HELP (for instructions on how to play).

* P2.50 per message sent.

ano Bang meron ka? opens november 14 at your favorite theaters!

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Promo good from October 26 to November 26, 2001, per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3610 series of 2001.

Starting a support group

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I was diagnosed with manic depression three years ago, but I have actually been suffering from it for 13 years now. The last time I was in the depressed state, it lasted nine months. This time it has been 10 months. I've been nonfunctional since then (I've quit work) and my depression has brought out the worst in me.

I have consulted psychiatrists, and I am being treated by one now. However, I feel that medication and talks with a shrink are not enough to help me cope.

Loneliness is a major part of this ailment, and I think that I can resolve much of that by discussing my ailment with people other than my psychiatrist. However, I find it difficult to open up to just anyone. I believe other depressives like me feel the same way. What would be easier and more productive, I think, would be for me and for others like me to discuss it with people who have this ailment, too.

Through your column, I would like to invite those who, like me, are suffering from depression to join me in forming a support group. My psychiatrist will serve as moderator during the initial sessions of the group.

For those who don't know yet if they are suffering from this illness, here are its major symptoms: feelings of sadness; loss of interest and/or pleasure in activities that one used to enjoy; changes in appetite or weight; changes in sleeping patterns, restlessness or decreased activity that is noticeable to others; feelings of fatigue or having little energy; difficulty in concentrating or making decisions; feelings of worthlessness or inappropriate guilt; and recurrent thoughts of death or suicide.

Those interested in joining the support group may call me at 256-6793 or e-mail bipolar_manila@yahoo.com.

I'd like to mention, too, that clinical depressives who want to get in touch with each other via e-mail may visit Depression Fighters-Philippines at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/depression-philippines. Just click on the "join" button or e-mail depression-philippines-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

GABELEE

Let's hope they accept your invitation, *hijo.*

I suppose toothache is the most painful ailment most of us could relate to in common. Excruciatingly painful as it may be, a toothache is nevertheless curable with a single visit to the dentist.

I'd bet that depression, in its own way, is excruciatingly painful, too. But quite unlike a toothache, it cannot be cured by single visit to the doctor. Perhaps not even by a hundred visits. In that sense, clinical depression is uncommon. In that sense, too, the majority of us—who have never had clinical depression or have not encountered it in our loved ones—will never fully know the demons that clinically depressive persons have been struggling with.

I suppose that because of the difficulties they have in common, depressives can open up and relate to each other better than anyone else could. That's why your suggestion for a support group —one whose members will meet in person regularly—makes sense. What's more, there is no known support group for depressives in the country, according to a Philippine General Hospital-based psychiatrist we asked.

So, I wish you well, Gabe. And I pray that other depressives will respond to your call.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

JOAQUIN DEBUT

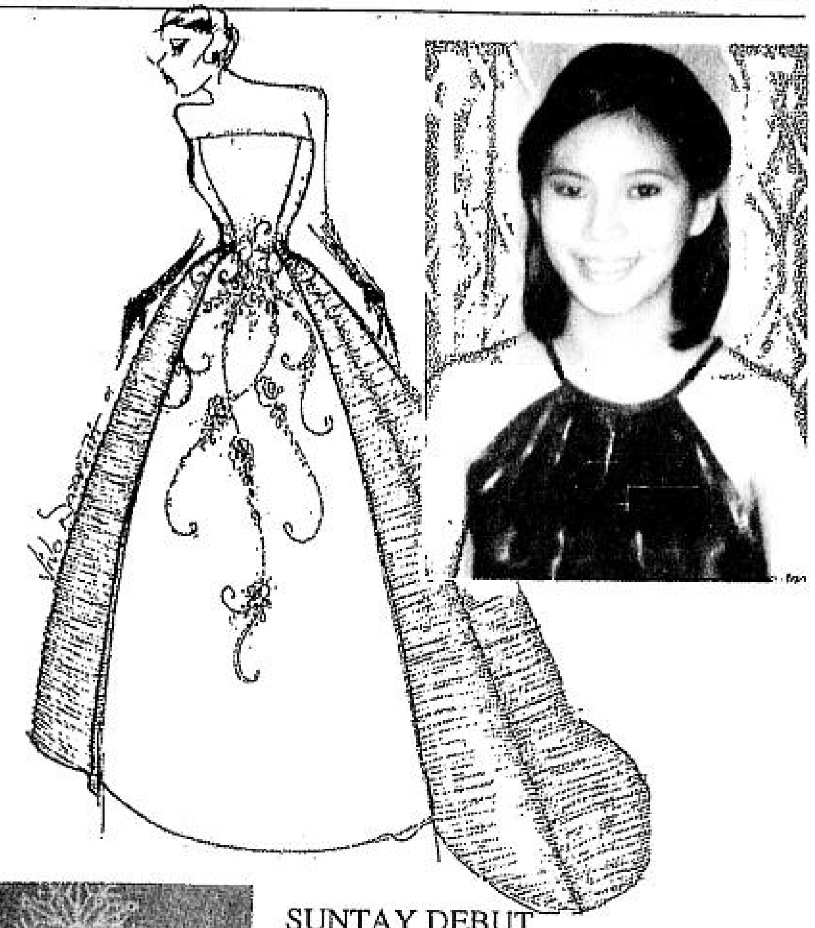
Catherine Coronel Joaquin celebrated her 18th birthday on Oct. 21 at the Grand Ballroom of the New World Renaissance Hotel. A junior at the College of St. Benilde, she wore a stunning halter gown by **Edwin Tan** of E Designs.

GUIMBA DEBUT

Kathleen Marie Santos Guimba, daughter of **Matias Guimba Jr.** and **Ellen Santos Guimba**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance on Nov. 16 at the Grand Ballroom of the Heritage Hotel. Her brother, **Kim Joseph**, will be her escort while her grandfather, **Ricardo Santos Sr.**, will lead the 18 roses ceremony. Kae will wear a **Mila Santiago de Leon** creation.

MALLARI-REYES

Wilfredo Y. Mallari, son of **Delfin** and **Irenea Mallari**, exchanged marriage vows with **Ma. Lourdes G. Reyes**, daughter of **Genaro** and **Lutgarda Reyes**, on July 22 at the San Agustin Parish Church in San Fernando, Pampanga.



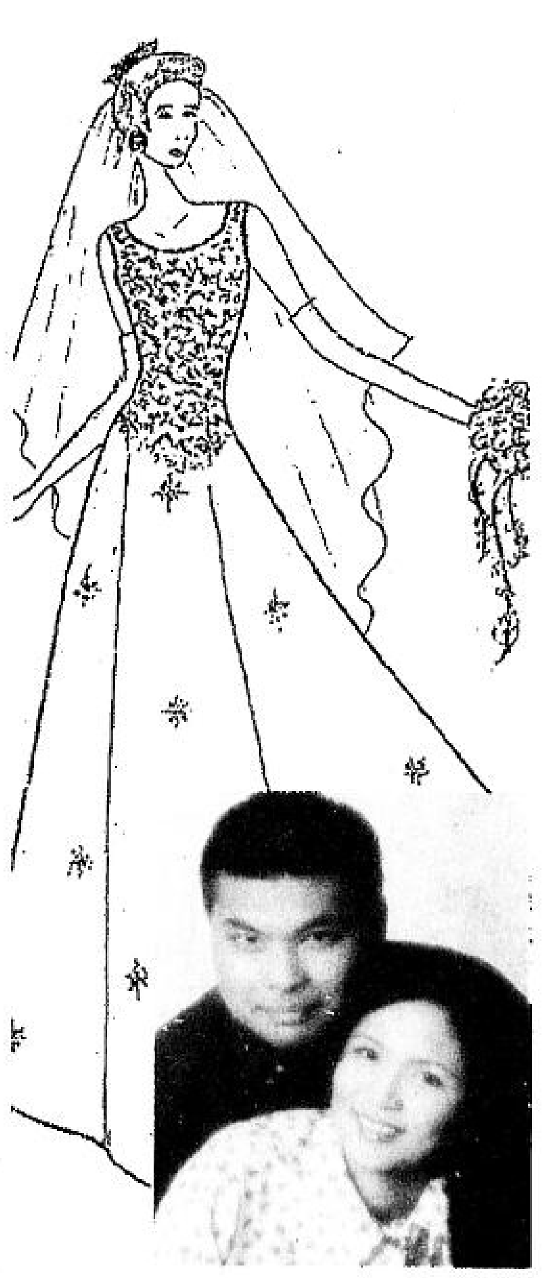
SUNTAY DEBUT

Maria Lourdes Joson Suntay, daughter of the late lawyer **Rafael G. Suntay** and **Rosario J. Suntay**, celebrated her 18th birthday yesterday at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

A psychology sophomore at De La Salle University, the debutante wore an 18th-century-inspired gown made of silk and silk organza with cut beads and rhinestones by **Vivo Nazareth**.

STA. CATALINA DEBUT

April Joy Sta. Catalina, daughter of **Arnold Sta. Catalina**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at The Peninsula Manila ballroom with family, friends and classmates from the Assumption College in attendance.



PLAMENCO-DIMATULAC

Dr. **Kenneth Plamenco**, son of **Bornell San Gabriel** and **Catalina Reyes Plamenco**, will marry to **Anne Dimatulac**, daughter of **Antonio Virata Dimatulac** and **Antoneth de Jesus Adorio**, on Dec. 26 at the San Agustin Church, Manila. Reception will follow at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

The bride will wear a white matte satin gown designed by Michaelangelo while Jones New York will make the groom's tuxedo. The bridal entourage will wear gowns in periwinkle. **Raul Valles** of Good Concept is the wedding coordinator.

Teatime Selection ₱1,495
Camomile Tea 30g
Lemon Tea 40g
Blackcurrant Tea 40g
Strawberry Conserve 340g
Raspberry Conserve 340g
Apricot Conserve 340g
Jam Sandwich Creams 150g
Biscuit for Cheese Selection 250g
Shortbread Selection 450g

Morning Delights ₱1,595
Luxury Muesli 500g
Cinnamon & Apple Cereal 500g
Orange Marmalade 454g
Breast of Turkey 213g
Potted Salmon 75g
Crispy Cheese Cracker 150g
Extra Strong Tea 250g
Café Gold 100g
Café Latte 75g

Italian Treats ₱1,795
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Bianco D'Sicilia 75cl
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Spaghetti 500g
Classic Pesto Sauce 190g
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Romana Sauce 340g
Carbonara Sauce 320g
Tomato & Mascarpone 530g

Heavenly Classics ₱1,995
Bucks Fizz 75cl
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Assorted Biscuit Selection 400g
Milk Chocolate Teacakes 140g
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Café Gold Decaf 100g
Classic Pesto Sauce 190g
Spaghetti 500g
Chocolate Eclairs 250g
Strong Mints 50g

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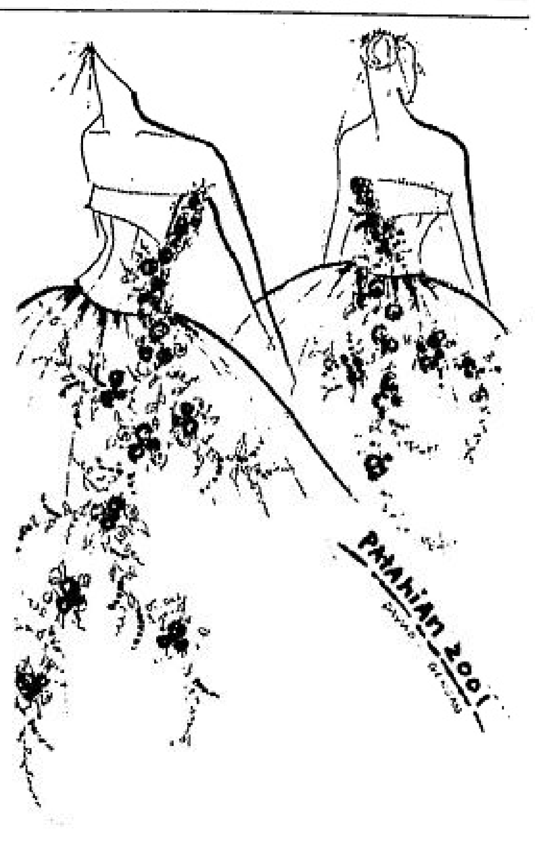
KAQUILALA-MALOTO

Joseph S. Kaquilala, son of **Alberto** and **Fulgencia C. Kaquilala**, and **Junet B. Maloto**, daughter of **Maximo** and **Manolita C. Maloto**, both of Makilala, Cotabato, tied the knot on July 28 at the St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church, Davao City. Fr. **Alfredo Palomar** officiated at the ceremonies. Reception was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Apo View Hotel.

Color motif was ice blue and silver. The bride designed her own gown. Hair and makeup were by **Diding Lopez** with photo and video coverage by Studio 28.

ALFONSO-SIH

Aileen Hazel C. Sih, daughter of **Arnolfo** and **Sandy Sih**, married **Jimmy C. Alfonso**, son of **Pepito** and **Rosalina Alfonso**, on Oct. 21 at the United Evangelical Church of the Philippines. Reception was held at the New World Renaissance Hotel. The bridal entourage wore gowns by **Larry Espinosa** and **Toni Galang**. Makeup was by **James Cooper** and photography by **Fol Rana Jr.** and **Glen Dimen Abog**. Video/AVP by **Jason Magbanua**.



ALCORAN-ROYECA

Sheila Rosario Sta. Maria Royeca will exchange marriage vows with **Robert Elavasantos Alcoran** on Dec. 15 at the Saints Peter and Paul Parish Church, General Santos City. Reception will follow at Anchor Driving Range. The bride will wear a handpainted wedding ensemble in ivory Thai silk by Patahian. The whole entourage will be dressed by Patahian's trio—**Aztec Barba**, **Dodjie Batu** and **Popoy Barba**.

The bride is the daughter of businessman **Antonio L. Royeca** and ballet directress **Girlie Sta. Maria** of General Santos. The groom, who is an account executive, is the son of radio and television commentator **Jesus Alcoran** and **Estelita Elavasantos** of Zamboanga City. Principal sponsors include local political and business luminaries and the INQUIRER's sports editor **Al S. Mendoza**.

TAJONERA DEBUT

Rachelle Dorothy Tajonera, daughter of Doctors **Robert** and **Dolores Tajonera**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Nov. 9 at the Maynila Ballroom of Manila Hotel. Dothy is a pre-dentistry sophomore at the University of the Philippines, Manila.

She wore a **Renée Salud** ball gown of tulle and *jusi* with a bustier top dyed in monochromatic turquoise. The gown was embroidered from the bodice with cascading vine patterns embellished with glass beads, turquoise and peach rosettes and Swarovski crystals.

Mall unveils first bridal fair

"ELEGANT Weddings" on Nov. 17-18 at the North & South Courts of the Power Plant, Rockwell may be a fitting climax to this year's series of bridal fairs and wedding events. The fair, the very first in the mall, features merchandise from some of the finest wedding suppliers. Admission is free.

Soon-to-wed couples may consult top-caliber wedding suppliers while being serenaded by classic-pop-jazz wedding musicians. Cake- and wine-tasting sessions, free photo snapshots and other special treats await prospective brides and grooms courtesy of participating exhibitors.

Visit www.tnmelegantweddings.com or call 371-9783 or 410-0032.

FDAP holds unique show

BRIDES in bikinis? As the members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Phils. continue their second season of "The Century in Fashion," expect an unusual and extraordinary experience on Nov. 14, 7 p.m., at the Atrium Lounge, Century Park Hotel.

The ongoing series, which features collections from the different members of the FDAP, showcases Bodyshots models. Directed by Cata Figueroa Jr., the show is a celebration of Filipino innovativeness and ingenuity. It runs until Dec. 5.

A million lights for Christmas

ROBINSONS Malls will be lit by over a million lights this Yuletide season.

Giant lanterns, festooned with metallic balls and multifaceted gemlike lights suspended from the ceiling will carry the malls' Christmas message of peace, hope and prosperity. "It will appear like sparkling stars filling up the heavens," says Tess C. Miranda, advertising and promotions manager of the Robinsons Malls.

Several hollow Christmas balls, with over 5,000 thousand tivoli lights, will also be installed from the ceiling and on posts that line the main hallways of the malls.

In the past years, the Robinsons Malls' Christmas displays have been much admired.

As part of a yearly tradition, the Robinsons Malls formally welcomed the holiday season last Friday with the official lighting of the Christmas decor at the Atrium Area of Robinsons Place Novaliches. The event was attended by Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte. A special program featured Dianne de la Fuente and a children's choir. Gifts were handed out to Holy Trinity's Home for Children, this year's special beneficiary.

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Definitely one of a kind, it gives the entire family the chance to pick not only from hundreds of stores, but also from a unique and excellent mix of all-new food and entertainment. Families can now enjoy watching the latest flicks and get crystal-clear sounds from any of four state-of-the-art digital surround sound theaters, and the first and only THX cinema in the South.

Still craving for more? Now there are even more deliciously affordable restaurants to satisfy the biggest and hungriest appetites. Filipino, Chinese, Australian, Thai, sit down, or fastfood, whatever you're in the mood for, Gerry's Grill, North Park, Mann Hann, Outback, Pizza Hut, Pancake House, Auntie Anne's, Taters, Candy Corner, Jollibee, and Dusit Thani are now ready to serve you.

And if that's not enough, get top entertainment when you go wall climbing or play indoor basketball at Olympic Village. Or play the coolest video games and win awesome prizes at Timezone Australia.

Last but not least, every kid's a winner when you take them to Puyat Bowling and Billiards. Aside from our regular tables, we've got small billiard tables for the young ones to play on. And we're also introducing bumper bowling, the first-ever kid-friendly lanes that come without gutters.

So bring your family to the Town and have your fill. It's an exciting new experience you shouldn't miss.

The Ayala Malls, always giving you more because you simply deserve it.

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☑ Female, 25 to 30 years of age
☑ A graduate of Behavioral Science or Psychology graduate
☑ With experience in all phases of human resource is an advantage
☑ With knowledge in the preparation, conducts and evaluation of TNA
☑ Can communicate in all levels in the organization
☑ Can effectively conduct training programs
☑ Can make training modules

ASSISTANT SUPERVISORS (for production and maintenance)

☑ Male/Female, at least 20-30 years old
☑ Graduate of any Engineering course
☑ With at least 6 months related supervisory work experience
☑ Aggressive, analytical and assertive
☑ With knowledge in machine operation for wooden product

ACCOUNTING STAFF

☑ Female, 21 to 27 years old
☑ Graduate of Accountancy
☑ With 1 to 2 years of experience
☑ People-oriented and can work on extended hours
☑ Aggressive, analytical and assertive

Production Based

TRUCK HEAD DRIVER (urgent hiring)

☑ Male, at least 30 up to 40 years of age
☑ High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
☑ Experience in Driving Truck Head
☑ Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
☑ With Professional Driver's License (R Code - 6 and 3, 2, 1)

FORKLIFT OPERATOR (urgent hiring)

☑ At least High School/Vocational/College level
☑ Male, between 20 to 27 years old
☑ With 6 months experience in forklift operation
☑ With Professional Driver's License
☑ Good moral character

ELECTRICIAN

☑ Male, between 20 to 27 years old
☑ Vocational or College graduate (I.T./Electrical course)
☑ At least 6 months experience as electrician
☑ Knowledge in AVR control
☑ Can read electrical diagram symbol

You can mail or hand-carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries, call telephone numbers (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Christian or Ehmee or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@yahoo.com

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A Telecommunications/Call Center Company in Ortigas Center serving prime companies in the United States needs the following:

FINANCE MANAGER

- Male or female, 35 years old and above
- Must be a CPA with at least 5 years work experience in a Customer Service environment
- Working knowledge of all facets of Finance specifically taxation, financial planning and analysis
- Well-organized and is willing to work long hours
- Strong leadership qualities and highly analytical
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral

ASSISTANT HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

- Male or female, 27 years old and above
- Graduate of any Behavioral Science course, preferably with masteral/law units
- 3-5 years relevant Managerial experience
- With strong labor relations skills and adept in all aspects of HR and Administrative Operations
- Must be equipped with excellent communication, presentation, negotiation, and people management skills

TRAINING MANAGER

- Graduate of a Communication or Psychology course
- 3-5 years experience in creating, conducting, and evaluating training programs in a customer service environment
- Experience in developing training materials with "adult education" techniques
- Excellent presentation, interpersonal, and communication skills
- Open to shifting schedules in conducting training programs
- Must possess strong leadership and management skills

CALL CENTER AGENTS

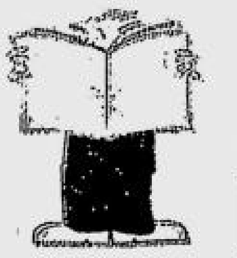
- Male or female, 20-27 years old
- College graduate, preferably Mass Communication, English, Linguistics or Marketing
- With pleasing and dynamic personality
- High level of English communication skills (to interact with US clients)
- Computer literate
- Willing to work on shifts
- Experience in tele-selling/sales an advantage

NETWORK OPERATIONS ENGINEER

- Graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering
- Minimum of 1-2 years experience in the Telco industry (Switch Operations and Maintenance)
- Experience in Hardware/Software support
- Willing to work on shifts

We offer above-industry compensation, generous benefit packages and career leverage through training and development.
Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send their resumé with recent photo to:
P.O. Box 13906 Ortigas Center, Pasig City
or e-mail to: **jobsnov_hr@yahoo.com**

Where you find the best.



Read it every Sunday
with the
Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market ONLINE

Amazing Philippine Theatre

ALCAZAR SHOWS are very popular among tourists around the world. In Thailand, this kind of show is the best tourist attraction.

AMAZING PHILIPPINE THEATRE will open the first transvestite show in the Philippines. We are now looking for professionals who can share their knowledge and expertise to our company.

WANTED

1. **Chinese Sales Manager** - can speak Mandarin and Fookien fluently, 3 years experience in Chinese travel agency
2. **Japanese Sales Manager** - can speak Japanese fluently, 3 years experience in Japanese travel agency
3. **PR Manager** - 3 years experience as a marketer
4. **Accounting Manager** - Female, Accounting graduate, preferably CPA, with 2 years experience
5. **Secretary, Waitress and Cashier** - minimum 5'6" height, college graduate

Address: **Manila Film Center dela Rama Street, Cultural Center of the Philippines,**
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
Tel.# (632) 834-8870 / 834-8871 look for Miss Edy and Miss Donna

---

FESTIVA AUTOSPHERE CORP.

IS IN NEED OF:

1 - SALES SUPERVISOR
10 - CAR SALESMEN

TO HANDLE MARKETING OF QUALITY RECONDITIONED SUZUKI MULTICAB PICK-UP, F/B BODY, PASSENGER TYPE & TOYOTA LITE-ACE.

Interested applicants must have selling experience preferably in the Automotive Industry. Apply in person and bring your RESUMÉ with two 2x2 pictures at:

2316 Aurora Boulevard (Formerly Tramo), Pasay City
Beside KIA Motor Sales Corp.
Tel. Nos. 891-6334 or 834-1271 locs. 117/112

International Service Company wants

ACCOUNTANTS

Several positions to be filled

- 25 years old and below
- New Graduates welcome
- CPA only

Ready to work long hours (even at night) if required
The following applies to all positions

- **Very competitive salary;**
- **Good Career Opportunities;**
- **New Office Building in Ortigas Center;**
- **Willing to work long hours when necessary;**
- **Female candidates only;**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The following skills required

- College Graduate with previous experience
- Speed typing and filing skills
- Superior skills at following up
- Good English
- Previous references
- 30 years old and below

The following skills a plus

- Accounting background;
- Pleasing personality;
- Can use Microsoft Excel;

Requirements for all positions: Resumé, transcript of records, Copy of CPA Licensure Exam result (if applicable), 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your email address if applicable), a copy of your most recent payslip, a cut out copy of this ad.

Send requirements to: The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box #14233, Ortigas Center Post Office, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

You may also email requirements to **personnel@msocorporation.com**

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

We are looking for ambitious and hard working engineers to become part of a revolutionary software technology firm with beginnings from the Silicon Valley. This technology firm is in the process of setting up a Software R&D office in the Philippines and is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

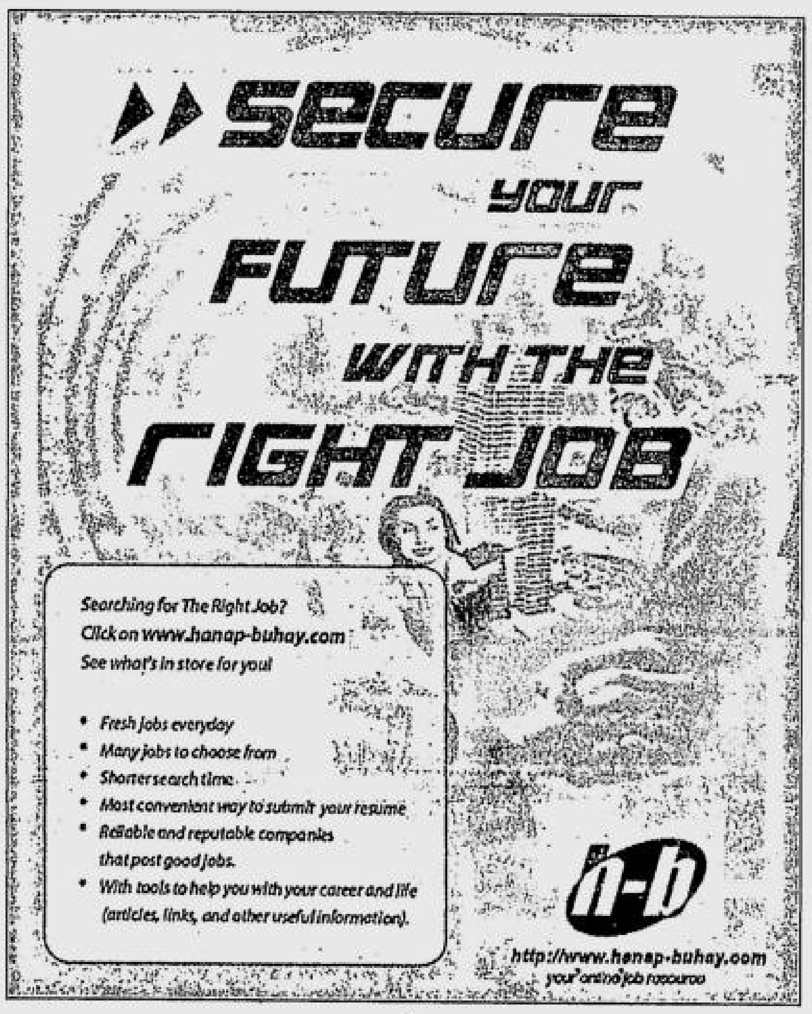
- **Technical Project Manager** with a minimum of five years experience in software development and architecture
- **Senior Software Engineers** with a minimum of three years experience
- **Software Engineers** with a minimum of one year experience

All with Computer Science degrees, expertise in Java and SQL required

Top wages to top candidates with all benefits allowed by law including profit sharing. Must be willing to travel to the US or Asia.

Please send in your resumés no later than **November 27, 2001** by email to: **pgsabado@yahoo.com**

*Qualified candidates will be notified by email for interview time and dates to take place between **Dec 4** and **5, 2001** in Manila.*


secure your FUTURE WITH THE RIGHT JOB
h-b

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Click on www.hanap-buhay.com
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- *Shorter search time*
- *Most convenient way to submit your resume*
- *Reliable and reputable companies that post good jobs.*
- *With tools to help you with your career and life (articles, links, and other useful information).*

http://www.hanap-buhay.com
your online job resource

Dow AgroSciences, an affiliated company of Dow Chemical Company, USA, is a leading multinational company operating globally with business in North America, Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. The Company's product range includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, plan nutrition aid, plant growth regulator, fumigant, seeds and industrial non-crop pesticides and provides innovative urban pest solution for Domestic and commercial building protection. The Company invites suitably qualified professional to fill a position of:

Customer Service Representative/ Supply Chain Specialist

TASKS

- Execute and manage the order receipt and handling (ORH) process with customers
- Provide timely and accurate services to meet customer requirements
- Create and manage the operation plans for country's supply chains and inventory
- Facilitate sales & operations planning process for assigned finished products
- Source of leadership and innovation within the supply chain process.

REQUIREMENTS

- 25-32 years old
- Relevant experience in customer service, order fulfillment and/or supply planning
- Effective communication skills
- Positive attitude
- Strong inter personal skills and versatility in dealing with different people
- Degree in Bachelor of Science with emphasis either on Accounting, Customer Service, Marketing, Sales or Business Administration
- Computer proficient
- A result-oriented individual
- Strong analytical, problem-solving skills
- Ability to lead and a team player in a diverse environment.

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT
Reply at first instance to:
Human Resources Dept.
P.O. Box 1567
Makati Central Post Office
1255 Makati City

The **UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme** is inviting applicants for the position of:

PTF Local Coordinator / Support Staff

for the project:
EC-UNDP Tropical Forestry Programme Project

Terms of Reference

The Local Coordinator/Support Staff (LC/SS) is responsible for the coordination and backstopping support of PTF implementation in each participating country and for the operational achievement of the objectives of PTF. The LC/SS reports to the GEF/SGP National Coordinator (NC) and, through the NC, informs the Regional Programme Coordinator (RPC) and the UNDP Resident Representative about the status of programme implementation. The LC/SS will be based in the GEF/SGP office in the concerned country.

The candidate for the post will have working knowledge of natural resources, particularly forestry sector, and development problems and issues within the country. S/he should have considerable experience working with NGOs, CBOs and communities, and proven readiness and competence to undertake fieldwork. S/he should be capable of establishing and maintaining constructive relationships with the local government, forest authorities, leaders of indigenous peoples groups, and other key stakeholders. The LC/SS will have experience with small grant and environment/natural resources and development programmes. Demonstrated communication skills are desirable and administrative management skills are essential. S/he should be familiar with participatory approaches/processes. The LC/SS must be a national of the participating country concerned.

Qualifications

- Degree in environment/ natural resource management/development-related fields preferably with specialization and experience in forestry;
- At least five years professional experience in forest management, forestry or community forestry related issues;
- Extensive experience in community-based or oriented environment and development programmes, and in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Excellent communication skills (written, verbal, interpersonal);
- Proven administrative competence;
- Fluency in English (desirable);
- Willingness to travel and live in the field."

Deadline for application is 15 November 2001.

Applications may be sent to:

The National Coordinator
UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme
United Nations Development Programme
Room 210, NEDA sa Makati Building,
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village Makati City
Telefax No.: (02) 892-7771

Email Address: angie.cunanan@undp.org ; charito.dela.cruz@undp.org

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WE OFFER:

- Dynamic team
- Good salary
- Opportunity to grow
- Philtoa, Nitas member

WE REQUIRE:

- **Flexibility in post**
- Honest personality
- Good sales skills
- Ind. experience pre

BUDGET TRIPS ALL YEAR 'ROUND

Offices at Manila, Boracay & Puerto Galera

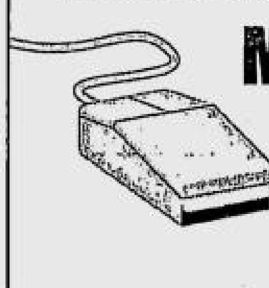
Filipino Travel Center®

3 INBND. TKT / RESRV OFFC. IN BORACAY & PRTO GAL.

1 EXP. INBOUND (MNL)

Fax / submit personally your C.V. at: G/F Ramona Appt. Bldg., 1555 M. Adriatico St., 1000 Ermita, Manila. **Tel: 528-45-07 to 09 Fax: 528-45-03**

YOUR CAREER MIGHT ONLY BE A CLICK OF THE MOUSE AWAY.



JOBMarket ONLINE

Now on-line at www.jobmarketonline.com

URGENT RECRUITMENT

THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN THE PHILIPPINES
is in need of qualified individuals for the positions of

GENDER ADVISOR

Under the overall guidance of UNIFEM and the UN Country Team in the Philippines, s/he shall be responsible for ensuring gender mainstreaming throughout UN programmes in the Philippines. Tasks and duties include:

- Coordinate preparation of a UN Assessment of Gender Concerns
- Assist UN agencies to prepare a UN Strategy paper on gender
- Facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a Monitoring and Evaluation system on gender.
- Facilitate and guide the adoption and implementation of a Policy Strategy on Gender by the UNDP Country Office.

DURATION: 12 months (renewable for another year)

REQUIREMENTS: Master's or PhD degree in a development-related field; at least eight years of substantive experience in development programming and policy; strong background and demonstrated experience in working from a gender perspective; good understanding of UN policies and programming thrusts and advantage; good grasp of human rights concepts and frameworks; good understanding of monitoring and evaluation systems; good communications and facilitation skills.

PROJECT ASSISTANT

Reporting directly to the Gender Advisor, the successful applicant shall regularly perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1) Contracting of local and international consultants/ experts, procurement of project equipment, organization of meetings, seminars and workshops
2) Documentation and research
3) Financial monitoring, recording and reporting
4) Other auxiliary functions required in pursuit of the organization's thrusts and objectives.

DURATION: 12 months (renewable for another year)

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics or other related field; at least five-year professional experience in project development and management, or in related administrative support services; experience in working from a gender perspective; very good writing skills in preparing reports and communications; proficiency in use of various software applications (MS word, MS PowerPoint, Excel, etc)

Initial appointment of 6 months subject to extension depending on satisfactory performance and medical clearance. Salary is tax-free.

Applications with complete resume must be received not later than 20 November 2001 at the PERSONNEL UNIT, UNDP, P.O.Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City, or email address charito.dela.cruz@undp.org, or fax 816-4061, 893-9598. Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

Stores Specialists, Inc.

IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER (Code: S-TSM)

☑ Between 27-40 years old
☑ Must be a Licensed Interior Designer or Architect
☑ Must have been involved in store design
NOTE: Please submit portfolio of works especially on store design
☑ Must be able to develop standards for Interior Design and Architectural works
☑ Must have at least two (2) years experience in handling renovation works including bidding and evaluation, program scheduling, inspection and quality control
☑ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
☑ Must be computer literate, specifically capable to design in Autocad

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo thru mail to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Quezon City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE INDICATE POSITION CODE

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Code: R-HRA

☑ Female, between 24-28 years old
☑ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/ Studies or Human Resource Management
☑ Minimum of one (1) year experience in a similar capacity, handling recruitment and administration
☑ With very strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
☑ With excellent oral and written communication skills
☑ Possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
☑ Highly motivated and results-oriented
☑ Computer literate

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE USE POSITION CODE

AMELLAR CORPORATION **Your Way to Digital Government.**

OLTP • GIS • Data Warehouse • Document Imaging • Web Applications

Our partners opened an office in Cebu to service our expanding client-base. We need the following for our Visayas operations:

2 Training/Analytical Data Controllers (T/ADC)

Cebu-Based but currently in Luzon
Very Responsible
Willing to Study and Learn Frequently
Willing to Travel within Visayas and Mindanao
Must Pass the Company Exam and Interview
Preferably New Graduates w/out Old Technology Mindsets

2 Business Development Assistants (BDA)

Cebu-Based but Currently in Luzon
Confident, Friendly, and Personable
Willing to Travel within Visayas and Mindanao
Must Pass the Company Exam and Interview
Preferably New Graduates w/out Traditional Marketing Mindsets

Compensation Package Applicable to Both Positions

Three (3) Months Training	PhP7,500/Month Allowance
Starting Pay	PhP10,000/Month Plus Incentives and Bonuses

The company reviewer will be made available only to the 20 best T/ADC applicants who shall be eligible to take the Company Exam. Selected BDA applicants only will be called for the exam.

Send your resumé and cover letter to:

The Technology Managers c/o the Administrative Officer
OLTP and GIS Divisions
Amellar Corporation
46 April Street, Congressional Village, Project 8, Quezon City

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UNITY MARKETING CORPORATION

A market leader in the supply of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment, parts and supplies is looking for qualified applicants for the position of:

SALES AND MARKETING EXECUTIVES

He/She will be tasked to assist the Sales and Marketing Manager in achieving sales targets in line with the current vision and mission of the company. He/She must fulfill the following requirements:

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old.
- With excellent oral and written communication skills and aggressive personality.
- Preferably with at least six (6) months experience in sales.
- Engineering graduates from reputable schools preferred but not required.

Compensation will be based upon qualifications. Interested parties should personally apply and bring their resumé, 2x2 ID pictures, transcript of records from 8:00 to 12:00 noon ***November 12, 14*** *and* ***16, 2001*** *only.*

UNITY MARKETING CORPORATION
950-956 Espeleta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 733-8241 to 52

BODY & SOUL
&
Nature's Gift from Australia
IS IN NEED OF

A) ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

- female, minimum 3 years work experience in a similar position
- Computer literate / self-motivating

B) COMPANY PHARMACIST

- Female, computer literate
- Licensed, with minimum 3 years work experience in a similar position
- Full-time work

C) RETAIL SALES SUPERVISORS

- Female, previous experience in a similar field would be an advantage
- Excellent communication skills, results-driven
- Long term vision

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY & COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Please apply in person with your detailed resumé and credentials on November 12-14, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm **at #78 15th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City**
E-mail: bodynsoul@skyinet.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- At least 4 years of college education leading to any formal degree
- 1 to 3 months related experience
- Must have a good voice modulation
- Communication skills

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City

E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

The future is e-commerce

Global Sources leads the field in the development of new products to connect the worlds trading partners. We provide e-commerce solutions to buyers and their suppliers and offer exceptional opportunities in this most exciting of business areas. We are currently looking for a:

Graphic Artist

You will be responsible for creative design for various ad projects in print and/or online. You must have 1 year of design experience in a Mac environment and expert skills in Pagemaker, Illustrator and Photoshop. In-depth understanding of color correction and pre-press preparation is required.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

Looking for a Challenging and Rewarding Career with a fast-expanding Multi-National Company?

A financially strong and well-established Multi-National Company engaged in the manufacture and distribution of roofing materials and a market leader, has immediate vacancies for the following positions to be located at its Makati Office.

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

Circa: *Above Php 250,000 per annum plus Commissions and Allowances*

REQUIREMENTS:

- Preferably a degree holder in Architecture or Civil Engineering
- Age between 28 to 40 years, Male or Female
- Minimum 5 years sales experience in the building supplies trade
- Good contacts with building developers and architects is essential
- Pleasant personality and strong interpersonal skills
- Hardworking, aggressive and a team player
- Possess Valid Driver's License

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Circa: *Above Php200,000 per annum plus Allowances and Benefits*

REQUIREMENTS:

- Preferably a degree holder in Marketing or Business
- Age between 28 to 40 years, Male or Female
- Minimum 3 years experience in Marketing Support Services
- Strong research, communication and reporting skills
- Computer literate, knowledge in Microsoft Office, Excel and Power Point is essential
- Good command of oral and written English

Our company offers excellent career advancement opportunities. Applicants without the necessary qualifications and experience as well as the drive and ambition to succeed will not be suitable for these positions.

Candidates should fax their resumé to 813-1704 or send resumé and recent 2x2 picture to the Marketing Director at Unit B, 2/F Emmanuel House, 115 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200 not later than **November 30, 2001**.

WebFocus
Solutions, Inc

A fast growing Internet company is looking for young people interested in a career in sales as

WEB CONSULTANTS

Qualifications:

- Ages 21 to 27
- College graduate with a degree in Business or Communications
- Familiar with Internet technology
- Highly driven, goal-oriented, and sociable
- Good moral character

Benefits:

- Basic allowance plus commissions and bonuses
- Plenty of opportunities for training and growth
- Opportunities for career growth

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR AN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Female
- College graduate
- Skillful with Microsoft Word and Excel
- Good oral and written communications skills
- Good moral character

Interested applicants may send their resumés and 2x2 photos through any of the following:

- Fax Number: 361-9261
- Email: hrd@webfocus.ph
- Mail to 19 V. Mapa Street, Kalookan City, Addressed to Raquel de Guia

Or may inquire through 0917-8334464

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
ONLINE

UCPB GENERAL
Insurance Co., Inc.

A member of the UCPB Group and an ISO 9002 certified company belonging to the top ten non-life insurance companies in the Philippines. We seek highly qualified and motivated individuals to fill-up our present job vacancies:

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

☑ Graduate of any business course
☑ Not over 30 years old
☑ With basic knowledge of underwriting and claims processes
☑ Excellent communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)
☑ Must be willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila

ASSISTANT AUDITORS

☑ Graduate of BS Accountancy
☑ CPA an advantage
☑ Not over 26 years old
☑ With auditing experience for at least 6 months
☑ Very analytical
☑ Good communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

UNDERWRITERS

☑ Graduate of any business course
☑ Not over 25 years old
☑ Knowledge of basic underwriting processes an advantage
☑ Good communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

PROCESSORS / CLERKS

☑ Graduate of any Business course
☑ Not over 25 years old
☑ Good communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

Applicants may bring their resumé, Transcript of Records and recent 2x2 colored picture; or

Mail their application letters with the above documents to: **Human Resources and Administrative Services Department**, UCPB Gen, 24th Floor LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail to personnel@ucpbgen.com - **strictly no attachments**. *Previous applicants need not apply.*

The Deo BC team

GREAT looks
Great HAIR

We are the Deo B C team, a full service salon with a vision to be a leader in the industry.

We provide our members with a good working environment, attractive compensation package, and the best training program for career development in the industry.

We are in search of highly motivated, talented, enthusiastic and creative individuals who are looking for exciting and challenging careers.

STYLIST (Code: ST) and TECHNICIAN (Code: TT)

- Impressive and effective communication, interpersonal and selling skills
- Hardworking, ambitious, self-driven
- Should demonstrate commitment, focused on adding value, dedicated to innovation, teamwork and performance standards
- Open to change and improvement
- 5 to 10 years experience an advantage

BEAUTICIAN (Code: BT)

- Must be personable, result-driven and self-directed
- Has an eye for details
- Highly skillful on skin and nail care, facial treatment and other beauty therapy activities
- Knowledge on body and foot massage and advantage

RECEPTIONIST (Code: RT)

- Pleasing personality and excellent PR
- With high levels of initiative, responsibility, patience, enthusiasm and graciousness
- Dedication to work, diligence and trustworthiness is of utmost importance
- Flexibility in time schedule

Interested parties may hand-carry their application, curriculum vitae and 2x2 photo not later than 23 November 2001 at Unit 122, Yulo Condominium Plaza, Don Bosco St., Makati City

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EasyCall

EasyCall Contact Center located at Mandaluyong City now requires

30 TELEMARKETERS / MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

to work in their new International Department

EARN as much as P600,000 per annum in salaries & commissions. Plus very generous CASH BONUSES.

To qualify for these positions, applicants must be:

- Fluent in English
- College Graduate
- Computer literate
- Highly motivated
- Able to work in a team environment

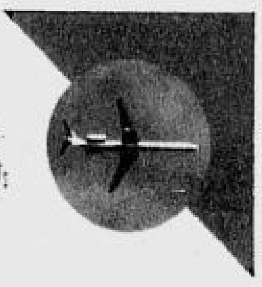
No experience required as full training will be given.
Possible training in the UK awaits the most successful applicants.

For immediate interview and employment call (632) 5358488 and ask for Emily.

CALL NOW BEFORE SOMEBODY ELSE DOES.

GENERAL

technology that liberates



PRASolutions

PRA Solutions #3, LLC, a subsidiary of NAVITAIRE, Inc. at Minneapolis, USA, is a multinational company that is in the forefront of innovative information technology solutions and high-value business application development for the worldwide travel and airline industries.

We are inviting qualified individuals to fill in the following key positions for our Manila-based operations:

BPO MANAGER

- *responsible for analyzing and directing related activities of the organization with supervisory responsibilities*
- *responsible for initiation and completion of development projects on-time and within the budget*
- *deals with development and resolutions of contract agreements*
- *supervises numerous teams in a department*
- ➢ must possess a University degree in the disciplines of Business and Computer courses
- ➢ previous airline revenue accounting or travel agency experience is a plus
- ➢ typically requires 4-7 years of related experience
- ➢ requires the ability to to collect, analyze and report data
- ➢ with excellent oral and written communication skills
- ➢ with strong goal-setting and supervisory skills
- ➢ preferably with some travel experience

PROGRAMMERS/ ANALYSTS

- to participate in the development and maintenance of application software components (i.e. coding and system testing)

- ➢ with working knowledge of any of the following languages: ***Visual Basic 5.0, SQL Server 7, Unix, C, JAVA & Cobol programming***
- ➢ must possess a University Degree in the disciplines of Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering courses
- ➢ with good academic record from any of these reputable schools:
  ATENEO, DLSU, MAPUA, UP & UST
- ➢ must be self-directed and have strong leadership presence and business acumen
- ➢ with excellent oral and written communication skills

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- ➢ with excellent oral & written English communication skills
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- ➢ must be available for coverage; willing to work long hours/on shifts
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Interested applicants may send their resume, recent photo, and official transcript of records to:
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16th Floor, Philamlife Tower Building,
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- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

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- good oral and written communication skills
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Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and 2x2 photo not later than **November 14, 2001** to:

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Application letters

A short application letter usually accompanies a resumé. The application letter acts as Jaymie's formal introduction and statement of her intentions. It should briefly explain the following:

1) How she came to know about the job vacancy
2) What position she is applying for and why she is qualified
3) What is the easiest way to reach her

Sometimes it's advisable to revise Jaymie's rèsumé or application letter depending on the target company and position, focusing on relevant responsibilities and experiences. Her application letter can also include the reasons why she's interested in the position.

It certainly pays to follow up her application letters by calling. Many recruiters even see follow-up calls as a measure of her enthusiasm.

Jaymie can expect some negative replies to her applications that begin with "We regret to inform you..." In the language of veteran jobseekers, these are called "ding" letters or "regrets." These can hurt the ego somewhat but she should not be discouraged. Again the key is to keep sending out her resumé as often as possible.

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SUNDAY
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

November 11, 2001
Volume 14 No. 36

Soap Star Eula Valdes

Acting Up a Storm

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GREAT ISSUE

THE OCTOBER 21 issue of **SIM** was simply great! With it, I don't need to research who the 21st Southeast Asian Games winners are. More power!

AVAN NAVARRO
Tarlac

CORRECTING CHRISTOPHER

JUST read your article, "The Million-Peso Man" (**SIM,** 28 October 2001) where Christopher de Leon was quoted as saying that Regis Philbin is "detached and "*suplado*" and "doesn't care if you get the money or not."

I completely disagree. I was in the US for about two months this year and saw Regis Philbin's version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire." De Leon's description of Regis is incorrect. Regis is helpful, compassionate and not at all *suplado.* Several times he led confused contestants into choosing the right answers.

Regis is also fast-paced with his hosting and not at all boring. I kid you not; Christopher is so obvious when he drags the show. He also fumbles with his words at times. The guy is a poor copycat of his British counterpart Chris Tarrant, aping even the latter's little hand gestures, among other things. It can be annoying because you know who the original is and why Christopher goes to the extent of doing this.

I wouldn't have written this e-mail had Christopher not wrongly described Regis. How many hundreds of thousands of dollars have Regis given away, not to mention the over $3 million won by two contestants in no less than two weeks?

On the other hand, how many times did we see Christopher mislead contestants who have already chosen correct answers only to be persuaded by the host into changing by asking the contestants his annoying "Are you sure?" How many contestants lost their three lifelines when the host misled them with his gestures and facial expressions? You can almost tell if the host doesn't want a contestant to win more than P10,000.

Let not fake praises fool Christopher into believing his hosting the show has helped the ratings. Maybe we should show Regis' version and see for ourselves how far Christopher's hosting is from his US or British counterparts. Sorry, Chris, but for me your hosting the show has little (if any at all) to do with the success of the show. Eddie Mercado would have been the best choice.

TERE ABAD
pajjote2001@yahoo.com

FOR SAMIRA ALI GUTOC

YOU wrote that Muslims are victims of bigotry (**SIM**, 14 October, 2001). But aren't Muslims bigoted people as well when they look upon non-Muslims with equal disdain? I exhort all Muslims of the world to open their minds, to practise greater tolerance. Yes, it's possible to open our minds without losing our faith. And if our faith is indeed rock-solid, what is there to fear?

Christians and Muslims, who ironically belong to the two most closely related religions on earth, must equally fight against bigotry and stand up for democracy. We have to grudgingly admit that Dean Jorge Bocobo, for all his hatred towards religion and notwithstanding his ostensibly secular humanist philosophy, is right in upholding democratic principles in the face of religious fervor. Democracy may be imperfect— it tends to subvert religious expression in the name of freedom, (which, for me, is itself a questionable concept) as what has happened in America — but it is the only political system that assures our happy existence in spite of our mutual differences and even violent dislikes for each other.

One more thing: reporters use "Muslims" in their write-ups because Muslims wear their being Muslims on their sleeves when they do terroristic acts, while so-called Christians who commit terrible crimes, immediately lose their very claim to Christianity. Think about that. If you Muslims are really against terrorism, at the very least, you should be the first to disown and condemn your erring brothers. Why the silence when you should all be speaking up?

RESTY S. ODON
2100 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati
rsodon@edsamail.com.ph

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The Cover Image Eula Valdes has successfully made the jump from ex-teen star to TV drama queen
Photograph by Mike Alquinto

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by Joy Rojas

Carlos Agassi may be the underdog in the popular TV series "Sa Dulo Ng Walang Hanggan," but in real life, the rap star and commercial model is living it up

Poor Little Rich Boy

AS BENJIE ON THE ABS-CBN WEEKNIGHT SOAP "*SA DULO NG WALANG HANGGAN*," CARLOS AGASSI IS SO INTO THE ROLE OF ORPHAN *KARGADOR* (STEVEDORE) THAT WEARING HAND-ME-DOWNS AND BROODING BEFORE THE CAMERA AREN'T ENOUGH FOR THIS 21-YEAR-OLD THESPIAN.

Hanging around carpenters helped Agassi affect a laborer's speech and mannerisms, and when Benjie suffered from what he thought was leukemia (but was actually anemia), he adopted a gym workout that trimmed his buff body down to a desired leanness. "*Parang* Hollywood *ang dating*," chuckles this rap artist of his transformation. "People watching the show believed I was really going to die!"

As for the acting, Agassi draws from his experience on and off the set. "Well, like Benjie, I'm a *kuya* myself," he says. "And I'm responsible and down-to-earth. A cowboy."

He's also surrounded by some of the most talented people in show business. Being in the midst of seasoned co-stars Gloria Romero and Helen Gamboa on a regular basis has taught this fledgling actor that the best technique is to have no technique at all. "*Direk* (Wenn Deramas) always reminds me not to act but to be sincere," explains Agassi. "Think how Benjie would feel." Since taking the advice to heart, not only has Agassi learned how to cry in character, he has also managed to gain the sympathy of die-hard viewers. Strangers who come up to him these days call him Benjie and insist that it's he, not his rich rival Clarence (Luis Alandy), who's a better match for Angeline (Claudine Barretto) in the series.

"*Ang tanging kalaban ko lang*," confesses Agassi when asked about the toughest part of being in a drama series, "is *takot ako sa ipis*! *Si* Claudine, *takot din*. One night while we were shooting a garden scene in Alabang, a cockroach suddenly flew towards her. She took cover behind me but when I saw the cockroach, I ran away and left her!"

Amir Carlos Agassi's own rags-to-riches story began some five years ago when his now manager Deo Endrinal approached the shy half-Iranian at a restaurant in Makati and stunned him with a commercial modeling offer. Agassi, who was eating with his *barkada*, politely declined, but when Endrinal returned to convince him a fifth time, the teenager figured it was destiny calling. The decision led to 10 months of 18 high-profile ads for the likes of Rexona and Johnson & Johnson, which in turn got him a spot as one of the new faces to watch in ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 3.

As his career coasted along with pretty-boy-next-door projects, Agassi reinvented himself as the "Amir Of Rap" during his third year in show business. Asked to come up with a special number on the weekend variety show "ASAP," he surprised everyone by performing a rap song.

Other occasions to rap followed but it was a duet with Philippine rap

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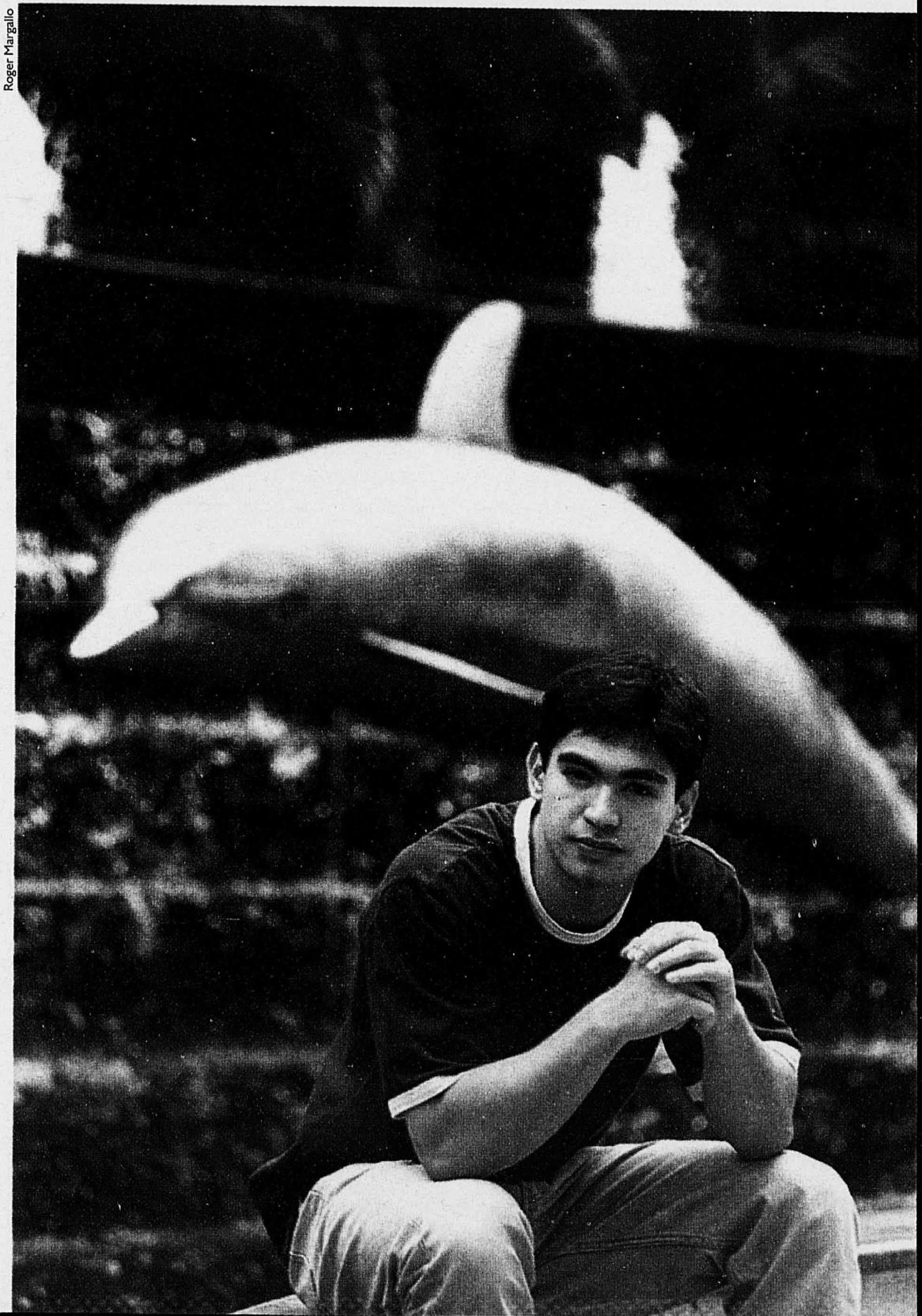

Roger Margallo

Music

by Eric S. Caruncho

Some pop songs become so much an indelible part of the memories that make up our lives that they lose their disposability. Such is the music of Hotdog

All Meat, No Filler

POP MUSIC, LIKE MOST CONSUMER PRODUCTS, IS MEANT TO BE DISPOSABLE. USE. THROW AWAY. BUY SOME MORE.

But some pop music becomes so much an indelible part of the memories that make up our lives that they lose their disposability. The throwaways end up staying with us long past their sell-by date.

Such is the music of Hotdog.

In the '70s, Hotdog ruled the Pinoy pop roost, releasing a dozen hits over a 10-year period, spawning several imitators and birthing the so-called "Manila sound" that made the world safe for the likes of Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Sharon Cuneta and even Zsa Zsa Padilla (who had a short stint fronting Hotdog).

In the bad old days of Pinoy rock, brothers Rene and Dennis Garcia were in a heavy, heavy band called Redd Foxx, playing loud and fast in the manner of Hendrix, Cream, Mountain alongside such cohorts as Balahibo and the T. Tinio Band.

The declaration of martial law in 1972 brought this halcyon era to an end and the brothers sojourned to Hawaii to try their luck there. They soon returned to find the local music scene in flux. Drug-addled hippie music was out in the "New Society," something else was needed to take its place. Something safe, innocuous, non-threatening. But catchy.

The brothers played rock for fun, but they were also dyed-in-the-wool advertising men who made their living writing commercial jingles.

"We were trained to come up with a 30-second melody that would hit the ear," recalls composer and vocalist Rene Garcia. (Guitarist Dennis wrote the lyrics.)

Together, the brothers had a songwriting partnership in the mold of Lennon-McCartney or Bacharach-David. The Garcias decided to apply their jingle-writing savvy to the three-minute pop song and came up with "Manila," inspired by their recent American jaunt. They recruited a female vocalist named Ella del Rosario and changed their name to Hotdog, after the American expression ("Hot dawg!" as in, "Hot damn!")

Love at first bite:
Hotdog in their heyday

Jingles 'R' Us: Brothers
Rene and Dennis Garcia

"Manila" was everything Pinoy rock was not: bouncy, lightweight, unabashedly commercial. Hotdog songs tended to focus on the timeless theme of boy-meets-girl (*"Pers Lab," "Lumapit Ka"*), but – unlike some of their imitators—stopped well short of puerility and cloying sentimentality.

Cries of "sellout!" from diehard Redd Foxx fans soon died out as Hotdog won a larger, more mainstream audience. Soon the "Manila sound" dominated the airwaves, and Hotdog were indeed "sellouts," selling platinum quantities of their records and selling out concerts.

Each Hotdog single was aimed squarely at the charts, and the band racked up more hits than misses, thanks to their proven method of songwriting.

"*Parang* commercial *din, dumadaan sa* test market," says Garcia.

Before release, each song was pretested on friends and strangers. If it failed to achieve instant recall, more often than not it was scrapped. With their keen marketing instincts, the brothers next set their sights on the upcoming 1974 Miss Universe Pageant, Imelda Marcos' bid for international respectability for the country. Well before the contest was underway, Hotdog recorded and released "*Ikaw Ang* Ms Universe." It went to No. 1, to no one's surprise. (By the way, whatever happened to Guada Sanchez?)

Ella del Rosario soon left to launch a successful solo career, and was replaced by Maso Diez.

The ascendancy of disco in the late '70s brought more hits as Hotdog adapted their sound to the new craze. Such discolated hits as "*Bongga Ka, Day*" and "Annie Batungbakal," based on a real-life working-class disco queen, again scaled the charts. The latter even formed the basis for a Nora Aunor movie of the same title. Hotdog was at the very pinnacle of mainstream success.

By the advent of the '80s, however, the heyday of the "Manila sound" was over, and Hotdog called it quits after their third album. The Garcia brothers returned to advertising, where they still work today, Dennis as an agency vice president and Rene as freelance jingle writer. (Recent memorable credits include the San Miguel Beer "*Sabado* Nights" campaign and the theme song of Rufa Mae Quinto's comedy "Booba.")

But the songs refuse to die. A tribute to their longevity is "*Bandang Pinoy, Lasang* Hotdog" (BMG Records), a recent compilation of covers of Hotdog classics by current bands. "*Bandang Pinoy*" is the brainchild of pop maven Toti Dalmacion, incidentally a nephew of the Garcia brothers, who used to play a house remix of "Annie Batungbakal" at Groove Nation parties.

“"I feel that they have worked their musical magic on quite a number of

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Q: How does The Inquirer protect small fry?

Lastimoso to
5 cronies found keeping $100M in Swiss banks
Use of children by MILF assailed

A: We keep an eye on the big fish.

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Perspective
by Rina Jimenez David

As far as villainy is concerned, she likes her contravidas if not larger than life then colorful as heck

My Favorite Contravidas

IT HAD TO TAKE CHRISTOPHER DE LEON ON “WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE TO STOKE MEMORIES OF THE *CONTRAVIDAS* OF OUR CHILDHOODS.

“Who is the comedian who is the son of movie *contravida* Etang Discher?” Boyet asked. It wasn't just that the son of *Aling* Etang turned out to be Panchito, who in my memory seems to have been always his mother's age, that startled me, but that Etang Discher could ever have raised a son who spent his life making people laugh?!

By her looks alone, Etang Discher inspired fear and loathing. In the grainy black-and-white movies aired on early afternoon TV, the staple resource of our childhood education on Filipino films, her appearance boded only ill will. Dressed in *baro't saya*, platinum hair pulled back severely, forehead knit in furrows, thin lips curled in disdain or hatred, she was the very embodiment of villainy. “She's so good at being a *contravida*, I bet she's really a bad person,” I remember telling a cousin as we discussed Etang Discher's latest cruelties onscreen. Not even De Leon's avowal that Discher in real life was kindly and motherly could dispel the impression cemented by hours spent in a thrall before the TV set.

Perhaps this is the occupational hazard that befalls every “beloved” *contravida*. For most of her life, even before she joined the movie industry, in fact, Rosa Rosal has been engaged in good works. Today, it is her name that often crops up when the Red Cross is mentioned, and even in her 80s, she spends much of her time soliciting donations or “bleeding” blood donors.

But she will always be to me the most glamorous and compelling and therefore the consummate *contravida* of Philippine movies. Unlike Etang Discher who repelled audiences instantly and made our “hatred” a cleansing emotion, Rosa Rosal drew conflicting reactions of animosity and admiration. Beside her, such heroines like Gloria Romero, Charito Solis and Lolita Rodriguez looked pale and washed out. She was often better dressed than the leads, playing socialites and vixens in tight-fitting cocktail dresses with strings of pearls, smoking incessantly, the smoke rising and curling about her sharp *mestiza* features and dark helmet of hair, cut in a daring (for those times) bob.

Unlike the female leads who suffered in silence and waited for fate to hand them their leading men, Rosa Rosal fought tooth and nail for her man. Of course, in the end, she always lost the men to the saccharine young lovelies, but you always knew Rosa would prevail, that she would not be defeated by this one loss and would walk off triumphant in her stiletto heels.

You need only look at old stills from those movies to realize how Rosa Rosal managed to steal scenes from her better-known co-stars without really trying. One's eye is immediately drawn to her, lured by the hints of smoldering passion and sensuality conveyed by her eyes, lips and every gesture.

Rosa Rosal would win her acting awards in celluloid classics like “Badjao” and “*Anak Dalita*,” but I would guess that her film identity for many of her fans remains that of the glamorous *contravida*. She was surely one woman we loved to hate!

The formula of glamorous villainy would likewise be exploited by Rosa Rosal's descendants, the likes of Carol Varga, Zeny Zabala, Patria Plata, Eva Darren and Bella Flores. The last I remember particularly for a scene in a local TV soap where she cried and smeared her mascara, resulting in two black streaks down both sides of her face, though like a real trouper, she finished the scene.

Perhaps it was because studios plotted their talents' careers with deliberation that these film vixens resigned themselves to permanent *contravida* status and thus waded into their villainy with gusto and gumption. They were never as good as when they were being bad, and never strayed far from the stereotype, though as they grew older, they sought alternative careers as character actors, as mothers, grandmothers, doting aunts.

Of the later generation of movie *contravidas*, only Cherie Gil seemed to relish her role as foil to the likes of Snooky Serna, Maricel Soriano and most memorably, Sharon Cuneta. A charter member of the *“taas kilay”* school of acting, compared to the current crop of anti-heroines who go about their acting chores halfheartedly and lackadaisically, Cherie imbued her characters with venom and bile, truly hateful and yet at the same time human and believable. By being such an accomplished villain, she made it possible for the leads to be credibly virtuous and saintly, though later there would be a boomlet of feisty heroines, who gave as good as they got. Only Cherie Gil could pull off, without sounding like a caricature, that memorable line “You're nothing but a second-rate, trying hard copycat!” followed by a glass of water thrown in the face of the Megastar.

Cherie Gil: When she's bad, she's really, really good

I guess by now you've guessed that as far as villainy is concerned, I like my *contravidas* if not larger than life then colorful as heck. Subtlety may make for interesting studies, but there's nothing to excite the emotions quite like Etang Discher berating a crying Trudis Liit, Rosa Rosal walking off with the leading man with a smirk and a snide lift of a bare shoulder, or Cherie Gil raising her eyebrows and looking down her prominent nose at the tweetums star. They may not get top billing, but it is these moments that my favorite *contravidas* fill the screen with and tattoo themselves in my memory.

Hugging the Shore

I admire the delicacy
of trees anticipating
the breathless shaking
of the sea.
Beginning with an old pine
the tree allows
its loneliness
to drift into the waters
where it heaves
the fluidity
of crustaceans
in their hard shells.
I imagine myself
a twig from that old tree
shaping a tideline
away from the dirty feet
of strangers who drift by.

Jose Wendell P. Capili

Iguguhit Kita ng Bahay

Ito ang aking awit sa anak kong Badjau:

Iguguhit kita ng bahay
bahay na walang katulad
may paang nakatuntong sa dagat
sandigan ng salat sa lupa't palad.

Sa aking kamay, aking hahawakan
batong buhay sa pinong buhanginan
susundan ang hugis ng pangarap
tahanang malayo sa kamay ng alat
hindi mahuhugas ng tubig-dagat.

Unahin natin ang ating bubong
bubong ng langit, silungan ng lahat
walang makapaglilipat sa mga ulo natin
sa kalinga ng ulan at gabay ng bituin.

Isusunod naman natin ang ating dingding
dingding ng mga bundok, sandalan ng lahat
walang makapagtutulak sa mga likod natin
sa kabila ng lilim at hangganan ng hangin.

At huwag kalimutan ang sahig
sahig ng lupang tuntungan ng lahat
walang makapagtataboy sa mga paa natin
sa labas ng linyang sa papel lang nakadiin.

Sapagkat makinis ang pisngi ng mundo
at walang linya ng mga titulo.

Itatanong mo pa rin sa akin
anak kong mahal
"Kailan ko makikita
ang pamana mong bahay?"

Ilahad mo ang iyong kamay
Sundan ang aking hintuturo
At sa talim ng aking kuko

Ipapakita ko sa iyo
ang uukitin kong bahay
mula sa linya ng iyong palad
ikakabit sa halang ng iyong pulso –

Lilikhain kong muli ang iyong palad
Sa kahabaan ng iyong braso.

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Cover Story

by Tinna S. Bonifacio

She's played second lead all her life, but in a turnabout that makes for good drama, Eula Valdes finally finds fame, fortune and an acting award on prime time soap. Is she headed for a happy ending? Abangan!

Suds Story, Happy Ending

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'LL ADMIT IT. LIKE 90 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY, I'M HOOKED. EVERY EVENING AT 7, I TURN ON MY TV AND TUNE IN TO THE SOAPY SAGA OF YNA, ANGELO, AMOR, CLAUDIA AND EDUARDO, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS *"PANGAKO SA 'YO."*

> *"We only get our scripts one at a time. So don't ask what's going to happen next in 'Pangako sa 'Yo'– I can't tell you!"*

The extremely popular prime time soap—which bagged Best Drama Series honors at the Star Awards for Television—made stars out of Kristine Hermosa and Jericho Rosales, a first-rate *kontrabida* out of Vanessa del Bianco, and breathed new life into the careers of Tonton Gutierrez and Jean Garcia.

But *"Pangako Sa 'Yo's"* biggest success story has to be Eula Valdes. Named Best Drama Actress in the Star Awards, she was the only member of the cast to win an acting award—and the miracle is that there was no sour graping heard from anyone. Everyone in showbiz seems to agree that the award, the first in Eula's career, is long overdue. Even co-star Jean Garcia, her fellow nominee, totally approved.

Eula, whose real name is Julia Amorsolo Valdes (she's related to artist Fernando Amorsolo) broke into showbiz as a teen star. Her most memorable role was in *"Bagets,"* the coming-of-age flick in which she co-starred with Aga Muhlach, Francis Magalona, JC Bonnin (who's now a Christian pastor), William Martinez, Herbert Bautista (now Vice-Mayor of Quezon City), Yayo Aguila, and Jobelle Salvador. Eula considers the movie as the highlight of her career because even now, people still remember her for it.

"The *'Bagets'* days seem so long ago," laughs Eula. "But it was all really about the male members of the cast then. We were just there as their love interests. I used to be a leading lady of actors who became big stars in their own right. I was feeling kind of left out, but felt that someday, my time would come."

There was a time in her career when Eula didn't feel so hopeful. Her weight ballooned, and the roles stopped coming. She considers that one of the lowest points in her life, along with the time she was pregnant with her son Miguel. "It was a bad time, because I had to be out of work at a time I needed the money most. It was very depressing."

Landing the role of Amor Powers was a turning point for Eula. All of a sudden, she's hot item. As Amor, Eula is at her best form, literally and otherwise. The pounds she has shed (through natural means, she stresses, not drugs) look very becoming. On screen, she looks exactly the way her character should: glamorous, elegant, and to-

Mike Alquinto

Looking back: "I felt that someday, my time would come"

Feeling left out: Eula in her early days in showbiz

tally in control. It would be no exaggeration to say that for Eula, it is the role of Amor Powers in *"Pangako Sa 'Yo"* that made her.

For those who don't know (if there's anyone who doesn't), Eula's character Amor was a maid in the household of the Buenavista family. She falls in love with Eduardo (Tonton Gutierrez), Doña Benita's favored son. When Doña Benita finds out about their relationship, she drives Amor out from the *hacienda* and the province of Puntaverde, unaware that the latter is already pregnant with Yna (Kristine Hermosa). Eduardo then marries the powerful and influential Claudia, played by Jean Garcia. Rejected and cheated out of Eduardo's love, Amor leaves Puntaverde, but vows to exact her revenge.

When Yna turns two, Amor decides to seek the proverbial greener pastures. She marries a foreigner, leaves for America, and entrusts Yna to the care of her mother. But after an accident kills her grandmother, Yna becomes an adopted young woman, unaware of her past, until fate leads her to the Hacienda Buenavista where she meets Angelo (Jericho Rosales). History repeats itself: master and servant fall in love with each other and bring the story back to where it all began.

In real life, Eula still has to get used to the fame and fuss that come with playing Amor Powers. "A lot of changes have happened," she says. "Some of the changes came even before I won the award. The most obvious is how people react to me whenever I'm out shopping or something. In fact," she says, amused, "When I went to the (Star) awards night, it was like I brought my own fans' club the way the audience reacted!"

Ironically, Eula was not even the first choice for the role. But to her credit, she has taken the role and made it her own. She's done so well, in fact, that us loyal viewers of *"Pangako Sa 'Yo"* can't see anyone else in the role but her. That, and her Best Drama Actress award for the role have prompted people to describe Eula as the new prime time drama queen.

Honestly, she laughs, she finds the idea of a title a bit funny. "I'm flattered, but it doesn't really mean anything to me. It's just a title. Actually, it's kind of embarrassing because Ronnie and I used to laugh about titles being given to certain celebrities."

Ronnie is Ronnie Quizon, Eula's live-in partner of eight years and father of her son Miguel. Seated next to Eula during the Star Awards, he gave her a kiss as she stood up to receive her award. The two of them met during the 1992 Star Olympics. "We weren't even friends then," she recalls. "We only started going out a year later when we got to hang out with our common friends. We never thought we'd have a relationship until much later."

It's an ongoing relationship, but Ronnie and Eula have chosen not to get married despite having a child. They've tossed the idea about, but would rather not bow to the pressures of society. "We've talked about marriage many times, even before Miguel came around," says Eula. "But we're not in a rush. We both know that there's a time for everything. When that time comes, we want it to be right. We are not going to do it just because I got pregnant."

Both of them seem happy with the arrangement. Neither one feels the need to change things. If it ain't broke, don't fix it, they shrug off. But what about rumors that their eight-year relationship is on the rocks because of Eula's resurgent career?

Eula admits that her frequent absences from home have affected the relationship. She goes taping three times a week, every other day, with hardly any rest in-between. Asked what she hates most about her job, she answers, "The work load!"

Explains Eula: "We really work unholy hours and there's a lot of time spent just hanging around the set, waiting for your take. We tape every other day. Normally, you would go home and try to rest on the in-between days. But what happens is they call us anyway on those rest days for the work required the following day."

When she does get a day off, it doesn't mean rest either. "On my days off, I have to do my other chores aside from my guesting stints or appearances," says Eula. "When I'm not so busy, I sleep. I shop for stuff needed for my work. I shop all the time! I go to parlors and spas to keep myself ready for the cameras. If I still have spare time, I indulge in sports activities like boxing and volleyball to stay in shape." She also enjoys reading books—on anything from witchcraft to feng shui—and comic books. She cooks and loves to garden, "but since my house has limited garden space, I just buy flowers and plants in pots, or I buy seeds."

Her current fame means she no longer has time to enjoy the things she used to. The second casualty was family time. "I used to make my son's costumes because I like sewing and knitting. These days, his costumes, even the ones needed for school activities, are either bought or commissioned. There's just not enough time anymore," she says sadly.

Well, win some, lose some. But overall, Eula says that being part of *"Pangako Sa 'Yo"* would rank among the greatest experiences of her life. Besides, she has always wanted to be an actress. "As a kid, my ambitions were to become an actress or a princess. Which do you think was easier for me to achieve?" she asks with a laugh. "As a kid, I enjoyed pretending to be someone else, with matching costumes, lines and musical scoring!"

Although she says she would probably react in the same way if she were in the same situation as Amor, the role remains just another job for her. Having been in the business for 17 years and playing a variety of roles have taught her to treat every part with the same enthusiasm. "Amor Powers is just like any other role actually," says Eula. "It's work for me and I try to do the best I can. It's just different now because I'm at the forefront. I have a bigger responsibility, but I try not to let it go to my head. I don't even think about my acting, I just do my stuff, and if director (Rory Quintos) says it's a good take, then I guess it's alright."

But don't think that being on the show means Eula knows what's going to happen next. Friends, family, and even her neighbors in Parañaque ask her if Amor and Eduardo are ever going to end up together, but Eula can't say for sure. "The truth is, I don't know either," she says. "We only get our scripts one at a time. So don't ask me what's going to happen—I can't tell you!"

With this new role has come financial success. What would she do with the money that she's earning? "Save the world!" laughs Eula.

On a more serious note—and with a dreamy yet hopeful look in her eyes—she says: "I'm saving it for Miguel. I want all the best for him and will do what I can to make it all possible. As for myself, I just want to live and grow old comfortably. Perhaps a house in the mountains or on the beach...Yes, I'd like that, a house where I can live comfortably in my twilight years."

Stepping out: From has-been to hot item

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36-39	121.90	1,380.00	243.80	2,760.00	487.60	5,520.00	731.40	8,280.00	975.20	11,040.00	1,219.00	13,800.00	2,438.00	27,600.00
40-43	151.90	1,720.00	303.80	3,440.00	607.60	6,880.00	911.40	10,320.00	1,215.20	13,760.00	1,519.00	17,200.00	3,038.00	34,400.00
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51-53	277.90	3,144.00	555.80	6,288.00	1,111.60	12,576.00	1,667.40	18,864.00	2,223.20	25,152.00	2,779.00	31,440.00	5,558.00	62,880.00
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Death Benefits Are To Be Paid To:
BENEFICIARY'S NAME: ____________________
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU: ____________________

1. What is your HEIGHT? __________ WEIGHT? __________
2. During the past 5 years, have you consulted a physician for medical attention or surgical advice, or been confined to a hospital, sanitarium or similar institution? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Have you ever been told you had: cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure or tuberculosis? (If "YES" underline which ailment/s:) ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do you know of any impairment in your health or physical condition? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPORTANT

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please give full details. Include doctor's name and address; hospital; nature, date and result of consultation, ailment or impairment. Use separate sheet if necessary.

____

I understand that this insurance is issued based on the above statements, which I represent are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I authorize any physician, hospital, clinic or other medically-related facility to furnish The INSULAR LIFE Assurance Company, Ltd. with any information concerning my medical history and physical condition. I understand that the policy will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment.

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Entrepreneurs

by Ruel S. De Vera

Formula 1 fanatics Mike and Val Santos now run a business born of a passionate hobby

On the Fast Track

THE IDEA CAME FROM THE TOP OF MICHAEL SANTOS' HEAD. LITERALLY. A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, BUSINESSMAN AND DIE-HARD FORMULA 1 FAN MIKE RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL MICHAEL SCHUMACHER CAP FROM A FRIEND WHO HAD GOTTEN IT IN EUROPE. "I BEGAN WEARING IT AROUND," MICHAEL, BETTER KNOWN AS MIKE, RECALLS, "AND MY FRIENDS KEPT ASKING ME WHERE THEY COULD GET ONE, TOO."

Mike already knew that many Pinoys are serious Formula 1 fanatics. One of the world's most glamorous and expensive sports, Formula 1 racing features 11 teams, the most popular being Ferrari and McLaren-Mercedes, competing against each other in 16 races around the world. Even if there was no Filipino competing in this sport, Mike knew that Pinoys are keeping track of the lightning fast racecars on cable television. It is a seductive world of machines with speeds and costs that boggle the mind. Boasting stars such as Ferrari's Schumacher and McLaren's David Coulthard, F1 is a worldwide craze—even here in the Philippines.

So why not turn the hobby into a business? Last year, Mike and wife Valerie did just that, putting up Racegear Pit Shop on busy, car-crazy Katipunan Avenue. Catering to the growing Pinoy Formula 1 community, the shop sold authentic F1 merchandise sourced from Europe, and also served as F1's official Philippine ticket agent. Since its opening, the store has thrived, becoming a common stop-off point for Pinoy fans of all ages and persuasions on the lookout for shirts, caps, models, mugs, tapes and pretty much anything Formula 1. At the store, visitors can lose themselves in a world of really fast, flashy cars that battle over fractions of a second.

"We wanted to start another business that we really enjoyed," Val, 28, explains, "and our real passion was Formula 1." Beyond that, the husband-and-wife team wanted Racegear to serve as the starting grid for local F1 fans. "We don't just want to sell stuff," Mike says, "we want to help build a community."

Now the couple's hobby gains momentum as they open their flagship store at the glitzy Power Plant Mall at Rockwell, Makati. "We want to reach a whole new audience with this store," Mike continues, "because a new, younger generation is also growing up addicted to Formula 1." It is also an opportune time, he says, because Malaysian Alex Yoong of the European Aviation-Minardi team recently became the first Southeast Asian to compete in Formula 1. "And next year, Toyota will field an F1 team, so Asians will be even more interested in the sport," Mike enthuses.

At top speed: Val and Mike Santos

Romy Homillada

The new store, with its riot of bright colors and fan favorite livery, seems emblematic of the couple's prospects for success. Though he explains that breaking even would be fine, the couple believes that Racegear can be a profitable business venture. "Our customers are collectors and real fans," Val says, "who aren't afraid to spend a lot of money to pursue their interests." Prices start at a friendly P30 and can run up to the tens of thousands for some really rare items. Mike says they plan to continually update the store's 500-or-so items. "And we can help anyone order it if we don't have it." Mike is in charge of procurement, while Val takes care of the stores' day-to-day operations.

Aside from being a gathering place for fans, the two Racegear stores also want to help those interested in motorsports to make contact. "If anyone is interested in karting and other kinds of auto racing," Mike continues, "they can just drop by the store and we'll hook them up with the people they need to know." The couple can often be found at the store, chatting up fellow F1 fans and those new to the sport.

With the 2001 season now concluded and with Schumacher and Ferrari retaining the respective championships, Mike and Val are also organizing groups to watch actual Grand Prix races next year in Sepang, Malaysia and in Melbourne, Australia. "To watch a Grand Prix in the flesh—it's heaven," Val says. "It's going to be really exciting next year."

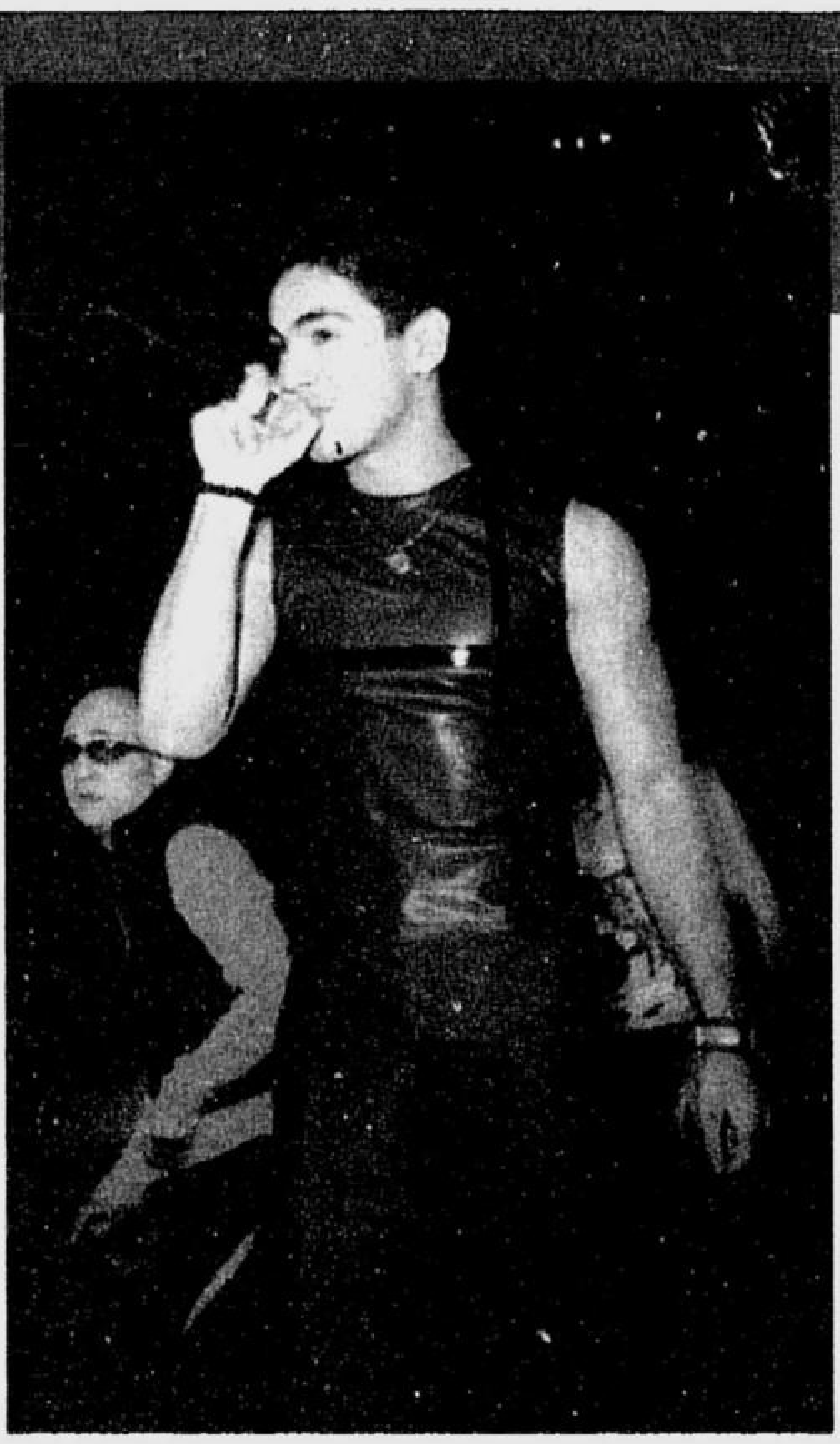
Even on TV, every race is a fun experience for the Santoses. That's because Mike is a dyed-in-the-wool Ferrari fan while Val is a McLaren supporter. "We sometimes fight during the races," Mike laughs. The family passion is all set to be passed on as their sons, Mito, 4, Guio 2, and maybe even 8-month-old Nico, have also began showing interest during the telecasts.

Val says that Formula 1 has proven irresistible to Pinoys. "Filipino fans are really dedicated. They even organize viewing parties when the races are on live. They gather their friends, buy beer, and engage in *kantiyawan* as the race goes on," Val laughs, adding that they do so even if they have to stay up past midnight just to catch the races on cable. She also notes, with a smile and a quick glance at Mike, that "most Pinoy fans root for Ferrari."

While following the exploits of the scarlet-clad racing team is a global phenomenon, it does bear asking why Filipinos have fallen in love with a sport without Pinoy representation. "There is a basic answer," Val explains, "Filipinos love speed and they love cars. They love racing on the road, *mahilig silang mangarera*—and Formula 1 is the ultimate speed sport."

But the affinity runs even deeper than that, Mike says. "It's the passion," he concludes, "Filipinos just love the passion of Formula 1 racing."

SEEN...from page 3



As the Amir of Rap, Agassi reinvents himself

pioneer Francis M on Agassi's fourth year anniversary that opened other doors for the young performer: he waxed his first album under Star Records and signed a slew of endorsements with Hanford, Shakey's, Stork, Peewee, Cheezit, And 1, Dickies and Doc Martens. Recently, his team-up with fellow heartthrobs and hunks Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual, Jericho Rosales and Bernard Palanca enabled Agassi to record another album and drive crowds even wilder.

Acting came just as unexpectedly. About a year ago, he replaced Piolo as one of Claudine's three partners in "*Saan Ka Man Naroroon*." Although critics pounced on the rapper's ability to act, the show's cast and crew eased him in by introducing him as—what else—a famous rap star. Today, Agassi has four films in his resume; the fifth, the much-anticipated "*Dekada* '70" (where he plays one of Vilma Santos' and Christopher de Leon's five sons), ceased production indefinitely after death threats forced Lipa City's Mayor Vi to shy away from the public eye.

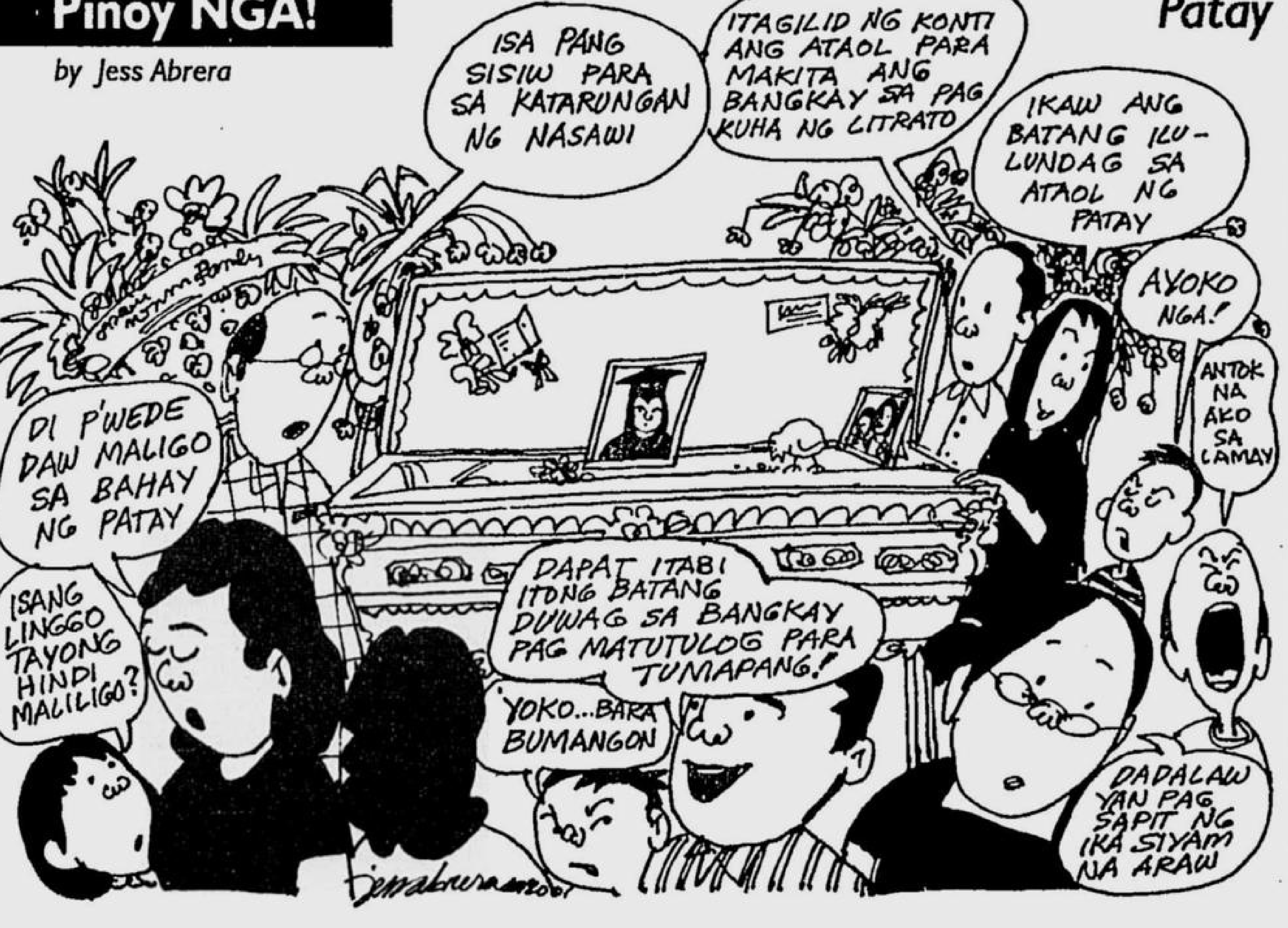
But Agassi's rising fortune is a fairly new experience. His has not always been a charmed life. The eldest of three boys was once a victim of physical abuse by his Iranian father. His honesty and openness—particularly about his crushes—tend to get him into trouble. And showbiz mongers have spun hurtful stories about his music ("All body, no rap") and acting (he and Claudine reportedly don't get along, and Onemig Bondoc was rumored to take over his role as Benjie). "There are also times when you're not in the mood or you're not feeling well. But when people see you, you have to forget all that," Agassi muses. "But I have no regrets. I'm enjoying everything to the max, and I love what I do."

It appears that other people do, too. Andrew E is producing his second rap album, women throw themselves at him in live performances, and everyone from a bunch of guys in an ice truck to a car filled with office executives greet him with warm smiles and hellos when his interview and photo shoot are over. While happiness continues to elude the underdog Benjie, Carlos Agassi has clearly caught it in his hands. "Right now, I'm really, really happy," he says earnestly. "What I am right now is because of my mom, whom I love so much and my (step) dad who is a guardian angel and savior. My loves are my family and my work. If there's anything I could ask for it would be continued blessings. *Hawak ko na at ayokong mawala*."

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Patay



ISA PANG SISIW PARA SA KATARUNGAN NG NASAWI
ITAGILID NG KONTI ANG ATAOL PARA MAKITA ANG BANGKAY SA PAG KUHA NG LITRATO
IKAW ANG BATANG ILU-LUNDAG SA ATAOL NG PATAY
AYOKO NGA!
ANTOK NA AKO SA LAMAY
DI P'WEDE DAW MALIGO SA BAHAY NG PATAY
ISANG LINGGO TAYONG HINDI MALILIGO?
DAPAT ITABI ITONG BATANG DUWAG SA BANGKAY PAG MATUTULOG PARA TUMAPANG!
YOKO...BAKA BUMANGON
DADALAW YAN PAG SAPIT NG IKA SIYAM NA ARAW
jessabrera 2001

Poetry

Sagada

Every time the eye
enters this place,
the mountains
do not want
to be transformed.

In their green predictables—
pine trees growing
ears of mushroom,
the infinite conjugation
of ferns—nothing moves,
no stone falls
from this world
to the next.

Because here,
it is always present
and all the animals recognize
this stillness: birds circling
the air, creating the shape
of permanence,
the deer lighting up
the water it gazes.

Nothing dies here,
for dying means
passing merely
as the wind,
slashing through the rocks.

I wade through the river,
down the slope,
where the fog settles
its enduring whiteness,

wanting to be considered,
wanting to be received.

Carlomar Arcangel Daoana

MUSIC...from page 4

bands from the '70s to this day that produced, tongue-in-cheek, daily affirmations about life and society," writes Dalmacion in the album's liner notes.

The sturdiness of the songs is tested in the hands of the Eraserheads, who turn in an electronica-flavored version of "Manila"; the Brownbeat All Stars who turn "*Panaginip*" into a new swing thing; Parokya Ni Edgar who punkify "*Beh Buti Nga*" and Aquarella who turn "*Oh Lumapit Ka*" into a mellow bossa nova number. Ranging farthest afield is Chill, who transmogrifies "Dying To Tell You" into a hip-hop number. Hewing closer to the originals' innocence is Color it Red ("*Bongga Ka Day*"), Barbie's Cradle ("*Langit na Naman*") and Cooky Chua ("*Pers Lab*"), who could have subbed for Maso Diez had she been born 20 years earlier.

If nothing else, "*Bandang Pinoy, Lasang* Hotdog" proves the pop truism that by being true to their moment in time, throwaways tend to age better than songs written for the ages.

This Week

Art

The Sounds of Colors, a group exhibit by nine deaf visual artists, Nov. 18, UP Church of the Risen Lord Garden, UP campus, Diliman, QC. Call 921-8521 for details.

How to Measure a Painting: 3 x 4, an exhibit of 3 ft by 4 ft abstract paintings on irregularly shaped canvas by young artists Lexygius Calip, Jonathan Castro, Eugene Jarque and Jojo Lofranco at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's Art Café until Nov. 13.

The cast of Dulaang Talyer's "Uyayi ng Ulan," onstage at UP's Abelardo Hall

Without Words, a joint exhibit by Kirsti Anttila and Kata Antonio at Hiraya Gallery, 530 United Nations Ave., Manila until Nov. 21.

Heavenly Bodies, a one-man exhibit by Milo Tolentino until Nov. 16 at the Alcove Photo Gallery, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Pinagmulan: Ang Pagbabalik-Tanaw sa Ating Pinagmulan, a photo exhibit of various images by the Zone Five Camera Club at the Glorietta 4 Mall, Ayala Center until Nov. 14.

Anna Mari Goy holds a solo exhibit of landscapes and flowers at the Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall Level 4 until today.

AAP's 54th Annual Art Competition, an exhibit of the award-winning and entry pieces in the categories of painting, sculpture, drawing, print, computer art and photography until Dec. 15 at the GSIS Museum of Art, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

Limbag, an exhibit of old prints from the collection of former GSIS President and General Manager Federico Pascual, until Dec. 29 at the GSIS Museum of Art.

if the devil is 6 then god is 7, a joint exhibit by Jonathan and Mariano Ching until Nov. 19 at the Lopez Museum Shop, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Music

Barbie's Cradle gig schedule: Nov. 12—Republic of Malate, Mayric's España, 11 p.m.; Nov. 15—Jekyll n' Hyde, 10 p.m.; Nov. 16—Adamson University, 8 p.m.; Nov. 17—Subic; Nov. 19—Music Museum, 8 p.m.; Nov. 19—Virus, Delta, QC, 10:30 p.m.; Nov. 23—Pampanga; Nov. 24—Zamboanga City; Nov. 26—Mayric's, España, 11 p.m.; Nov. 29—PSBA, Katipunan, 8 p.m.; Nov. 30—Tutuban Center, 4 p.m.; Nov. 30—The Fort, 9 p.m.

True Faith and Retrospect Band will hold a concert on Nov. 14, 9 p.m. at Soundstage Bar & Restaurant, Imelda Avenue, Cainta. Tickets priced at P175 are available at the lobby. For reservations, call 941-5813 or 934-4531.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Uyayi ng Ulan, a children's musical by Dulaang Talyer based on a fable about a young farm boy's trip to the market where he meets all sorts of endangered species that will make him aware of his responsibility to protect and preserve the environment; goes on stage on Nov. 11, 24 and 25 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Abelardo Hall, UP Diliman College of Music. For inquiries, call 415-6786 and 925-1933.

The Philippine Ballet Theater, Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company and Philippine Madrigal Singers pay **tribute to National Artist in Music Lucio San Pedro** on Nov. 15, 16 and 17, 8 p.m. and Nov. 18, 3 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. For inquiries, call 632-8848 or 832-3704.

Food

Guests are treated to a variety of **crab preparations** at the New World Renaissance Hotel's Emperor Court including live crabs prepared according to diner's preference: steamed with garlic, black bean or plum sauce, sautéed with X.O. or chili sauce. Available for lunch and dinner buffet. For reservations, call 811-6888 ext. 3338.

Buma Grill and Bar features **Buma Heavies** wherein imported condiments and spices from Hong Kong are integrated in Filipino dishes such as Chicken *Lechon*, Pork Barbecue, Sizzling *Sisig*, Grilled Pampano, Tuna Belly and Blue Marlin. Available for lunch and dinner at Buma Grill and Bar, corner Dao and Kamagong Streets, Makati City. For details, call 896-2116 and 896-1939.

Magoo's Pizza recently opened its newest store in Robinsons Place Imus, along Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite. Magoo's menu includes Superb Sandwiches, Pizzadog, tomato-based spaghetti and garlic bread, and brick-oven-toasted pizza with delicious toppings.

The Manila Diamond Hotel's Palm Court Bar now serves a delicious assortment of **midnight snacks** for night owls. The selection includes Congee with assorted toppings, hot or cold ramen and simple sandwiches available on a la carte basis. For details, call 526-2211 loc. 1520 or 1521.

Atbp

The Filipinas Heritage Library will host **Tell Me More! Storytelling for Children** on Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Melody Remorca, first placer of the National Finals in *Salaysayan*, a storytelling competition by the Philippine Board of Books for the Young, comes back with more delightful folklore and art workshop for kids 4-10. Admission fee is P80. For details, call 892-1801.

Barbie in the Nutcracker, a Barbie Holiday Collection Fashion show and musical for all kids at the Sampaguita Room of Hyatt Regency Manila on Nov. 18, 3-5 p.m. Free lootbags with assorted goodies and treats for all kids. As raffle prize, Barbie dolls will be given away to lucky winners. For details, call 833-1234 ext. 8070.

Puratos Philippines will conduct a **free baking seminar** at Puratos Innovation Center, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on Nov. 16, 23 and 30 from 1-5 p.m. For reservations, call 838-5110 to 15.

Meeting at the Middle: Balance for Working Moms and Dads, a series of talks on the woes and joys of work and life. Discussions begin on Nov. 14 with Balance for the Self, which focuses on Time Management, Dealing with Stress and Everyday Personal Rituals. On Nov. 29, counselors will tackle Balance in Marriage, on how to have nag-free mornings, Couple Power and Parenting. Dec. 12 will feature a talk on Balancing Family Life, on Disciplining and House Rules, Teenagers and Study Anxiety. For details, call 892-4141 or 892-1801.

Clean Body Clean Mind Health and Fitness Center (441 Malaya St., Mandaluyong City) offers the following classes: **Preventing Car Assault** (Nov. 21 and 28, 10 a.m. to 12 noon or 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.); Preventing Car Assault for Children (Nov. 22 and 29, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.); Reiki Healing Methods (Nov. 17 and 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). For registration, call 532-6395.

Assemble your own computer, configure hardware, troubleshoot and upgrade your computer through a **Computer Assembly Workshop** on Nov. 17, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Earthlite, 4/F, COD Dept. Store Building, Cubao, QC. For details, call 417-1521.

Learn to achieve the perfect combination of images and words through a **Writing for Video Workshop/Seminar** on Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig organized by the Probe Media Foundation. Guests include Luchi Cruz-Valdes and Nessa Valdellion. For details, call 922-9273.

St. Mary's College of Quezon City, High School Batch 1979 will hold **a reunion** on Nov. 17, 5 p.m. at Albergus Restaurant, Capitol Heights, QC. Attire is semi-formal. For details, call Agnes Zapanta at 427-2771.

The Calolbon (San Andres) Civic Association will host the annual **town fiesta** on Nov. 23, 6 p.m. at the Quezon City Sports Club, E. Rodriguez Avenue. All residents of Calolbon (San Andres), Catanduanes who are presently residing in Metro Manila are also invited to take part as followers of the *carroza* of San Andres at the annual Marian procession of the Cofradia de la Immaculada Concepcion on Dec. 2 in Intramuros, Manila. For details, call Jose Samonte at 939-5405 and 455-0993.

The Philippines will host the **International Industrial Relations Association 4th Asian Regional Congress** on Nov. 20-21 at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City organized by the UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Philippine Industrial Relations Society in cooperation with the Dept. of Labor and Employment. For details, call 920-7717 or register online www.upd.edu.ph/~solair/asiancongress.

Putting Up a Daycare/Preschool seminar will be held on Nov. 16-18 at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P7,500 inclusive of lunch, snacks, certificate and handouts, and one month sample of preschool curriculum. For reservations, call 823-2615 or text 0919-8270776.

X-manila

The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions will hold the 2nd **Cagayan De Oro Book Fair** and a series of seminars for librarians and teachers on Nov. 19-22 at the Dynasty Court Hotel, Tiano Brothers corner A. Hayes Streets, Cagayan De Oro City. For inquiries, call Beth Solquio, (02) 927-9858 in Quezon City or Prof. Annabelle Acedera (08822) 723116 loc. 2301, 2302.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.